

Jury on the Hill takes up positions for trial of the century

THE SENATE

AFTER A five-day helter-skelter of events that had pushed and jostled each other into the news, political Washington was finally able to sit back yesterday, take a breath and consider the significance of what had happened.

The President had been impeached for only the second time in US history. The Democrats were united (almost) in defiant support of their leader; the Republicans were fending off meltdown for the second time as many months. The political establishment was bitterly divided, and so was the country.

Even as Washington tried to relax, however, two competing developments were already in train. The methodical constitutional process was taking its course, preparing the way for the Senate trial that is the next and final stage of Mr Clinton's disgrace. And from the White House came the sounds of anxious wheeler-dealing in a last-ditch attempt to fend off the final - and irreversible - stage

of impeachment: the removal from office of the country's 42nd President, Bill Clinton.

Within an hour of Saturday's impeachment votes, the House of Representatives had appointed nine managers to oversee the charges against Mr Clinton, and they had physically carried the two approved articles of impeachment across the Capitol Rotunda to the Senate. The House thus completed its role in the impeachment of the President. According to the constitution, the Senate is now obliged to hold a trial.

Less than two hours later, Mr Clinton, arm in arm with his wife, Hillary, appeared in the White House rose garden to hail the support of a crowd of House Democrats and insist that he would work "to the last hour of the last day of my term". He was flanked by his Vice-President, the still-wooden Al Gore, his almost cadaverously lean chief of staff, John Podesta, and

the washed and brushed House minority leader, Dick Gephardt, an ensemble of solidarity that may or may not stand by him in the weeks to come.

Mrs Clinton, wearing an understated black trousersuit, had on her lapel the brooch that she had worn for her television interview back in January, when she had defended her husband and blamed a "vast right-wing conspiracy" for his troubles.

The golden eagle, holding a pearl in its talons, had become a tacit symbol among Democratic women of their support of the President. For Mrs Clinton to wear it on Saturday was to state that the Clintons were fighting on.

Mr Clinton indicated one direction of that fight, when he said that he hoped for a "constitutional and fair means of resolving this matter in a prompt manner". In other words, he was looking for a deal. The White House is said to have put out feelers across the political establishment in an attempt to find

any solution that would stave off a Senate trial.

In the three weeks before his impeachment at the hands of a fractious and combative House, the White House had started to sue for peace. They had spoken of compromise and deals, and on the day before the vote, Mrs Clinton - in a rare recent intervention - had called for reconciliation.

The thrust of the Democrats' arguments, such as they were in the two-day House debate, also tended towards compromise, culminating in Mr Gephardt's eloquent, but frustrated plea for censure, rather than impeachment, in the last minutes of the debate.

In the rose garden, too, there was talk of olive branches and healing. Such pleas were not the strongest suit for the Democrats to present in the debate, but they might have a chance.

Some Republicans are believed to have voted for impeachment secure in the knowledge it was an indictment rather than a conviction and Mr

Clinton would probably survive. The Democrats warned them that a vote for impeachment should not be treated as a warning shot across Mr Clinton's bows.

There is, however, a question about how many Republicans would have voted for impeachment if their majority in the Senate were greater than its current 10, or if they had believed that they were voting to convict rather than charge.

Misgivings among Republicans about removing Mr Clinton from office may yet open the way for a motion of censure or for a solution that has become known as "censure-plus" - that would incorporate a stiff fine, running into millions of dollars, and an understanding that Mr Clinton could face criminal charges on similar counts (perjury and obstruction of justice) once he leaves office.

The assumption in Washington - which may not, of course, be correct - is that the Senate has no appetite for removing Mr Clinton from office

and would countenance a "plea-bargain" of the sort so common in American courts.

Among the intermediaries - in a poetic twist - is believed to be the man whom Mr Clinton defeated for the presidency in 1992: the former Republican Vice-President and former Senator, Bob Dole, who set out a five-point compromise two weeks ago and has the ear of senior Senators.

The Senate Majority leader, Trent Lott, however, stated categorically on the eve of the House debate that he would not stand for anything less than a trial. "No deal-making," he said.

The right wing of the Republican Party would agree, and this has led some to believe that a trial is inevitable. The only question then would be its duration, and the outcome.

The Senate convenes for its new session on 6 January. A trial could commence as early as 11 January, but would probably take place later. One forecast is that it could be as short as a few days; another - that it

could last several months, depending on whether witnesses are called, and how many.

Proceedings would be televised, but not the deliberations of the Senators - who may ask written questions but not speak during the trial.

A two-thirds majority of the 100-strong Senate is needed for conviction, which would require 12 Democrats to vote with the 55 Republicans. Currently, that scale of defections looks unlikely. But Senators are regarded as wilful and quirky; at least two - Robert Byrd and Pat Moynihan - are sticklers for the Constitution and the law, and might change sides, taking others with them.

If, as in the House, the arguments move towards the high principles of a guardian of the law who lies under oath and away from "what did he touch and when did he touch it?", any vote could be closer than the White House would like. Which is why they will be investing so much effort over the holiday season in forging a deal.



Clinton, backed by Hillary Clinton, vice president Al Gore and chief of staff John Podesta, pauses during his statement on Saturday Reuters

WHAT NEXT FOR CLINTON?

- 1. Resignation**
As the import of the impeachment vote sinks in, Mr Clinton loses the support of Congressional Democrats and the country and is persuaded, despite himself, to resign.
- 2. Forced Out**
A Senate trial is held. Sufficient Democrat Senators are convinced of the gravity of the President's conduct and its harmfulness for the country and provide the two-thirds majority necessary to convict. The President is forced out and replaced by Al Gore.
- 3. Tried but Acquitted**
A Senate trial is held. Mr Clinton's lawyers satisfy the Democrats that the offences cannot be proved. Their vote holds solid and Mr Clinton is acquitted; he remains in office. Like Andrew Johnson in 1868, he has been impeached, but not removed. He claims victory.
- 4. The Lame Duck**
White House strikes a deal between now and the new Congressional session in January. The Senate convenes and immediately adjourns, accepting something tantamount to a presidential plea-bargain entailing a strong censure, perhaps a fine, but no further punishment. Mr Clinton is wounded, but not slain.
- 5. Constitutional Fisticuffs**
The White House fights on constitutional grounds, contesting, perhaps, the right of the Senate to try the President on the basis of charges approved by a House of Representatives whose mandate has expired and Representatives who were voted out of office (in the November elections) before they voted on impeachment. Long court fight ensues.

Judge with impeccable reactionary credentials

CHIEF JUSTICE REHNQUIST

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

TO SPEAK of "Nixon's revenge" would be going a little too far. But assuming President Clinton does undergo a full impeachment trial in the Senate early next year, the black-gowned presence of William Hubbs Rehnquist as judge and supreme arbitrator of his fate, symbolises how, in the span of a quarter-century, US politics has gone full circle.

Rehnquist was nominated to America's highest court by Richard Nixon in 1971 and, after stormy confirmation hearings, took his seat in January 1972. Two and a half years later, a Republican President with a rare capacity to inspire hatred among his political opponents was forced to resign in face of certain impeachment by a Democrat-controlled Congress. Playing a modest but not insignificant part in proceedings was a young staff member on the Watergate committee named Hillary Rodham, later Clinton.

As the country braces for the first impeachment trial of a President since 1968, roles have been uncannily reversed. Nixon's conservative appointee is now Chief Justice of the United States, the man who will act as judge to the jury of 100 senators.

This time it will be a Democratic President at odds with a Republican Congress - but a President who, like Nixon, contrives to inspire an almost irrational loathing among many of his political foes. Where Nixon saw a left-liberal plot against him, Rehnquist could be depicted as part of the so-called "right-wing conspiracy" to unseat Bill Clinton.

There are of course dissimilarities - most striking the contrast between the bipartisanship over Nixon which showed the American political process at its finest, and



William Hubbs Rehnquist: Unwavering conservative

today's vicious partisan brawling which threatens to make that process unworkable. One thing however may be said with confidence: there could not be a Chief Justice that Hillary Clinton would less like to see in charge of the trial of her wayward husband than the 74-year-old William Rehnquist.

For one thing he is an unwavering conservative. From his days as a Goldwater Republican practising law in Arizona, through his spell as head of the crucially important Legal Counsel's Office at Nixon's Justice Department to his 27 years at the Supreme Court, Rehnquist has sat firmly on his side of the great cul-

tural and political divide through American society. Famously, once appointed the Court, individual justices break free of the ideology for which they were picked; guaranteed tenure for life gives a man remarkable independence from the political patrons who gave him his job. Not however Rehnquist, bugbear of liberals for four decades.

Back in the 1950s he opposed school desegregation, backing "separate but equal" education for the races. At Justice, he was a vigorous supporter of pre-trial detention, wiretapping, electronic surveillance and other paraphernalia of Nixon's "law-and-order" programme, soon

to be grotesquely perverted in the Watergate affair.

Once upon the bench, he was a dissenting voice in the historic 1973 Roe v. Wade judgment that confirmed a woman's right to an abortion, and has opposed gay rights and affirmative action. Today, along with Clarence Thomas and Antonin Scalia, he forms a troika of unshakeable conservatives on a gradually more liberal Clinton court.

Most ominous for the Clintons however is the manifest lack of sympathy by Rehnquist, an acknowledged specialist on the US constitution, for this President's claims of executive privilege to stall the special prosecutor's investigations - uncannily mirroring similar efforts by Nixon 25 years ago.

Then, the argument revolved around the privacy of tapes of Oval Office conversations; this time Clinton has fought to protect the secrecy of advice given him by White House lawyers, and over whether his bodyguards and security men could be forced to give grand jury testimony. In both cases Rehnquist in person ruled against him.

From there, for many liberals, it is a short jump to identifying the Chief Justice as a secret weapon in chief of Clinton-haters. He is a Republican friendly with, and from a comparable professional background to, Clinton's nemesis Kenneth Starr.

And indeed, it was Rehnquist who picked the right-wing North Carolina judge who headed the three-man panel which astonished neutrals in 1994 by choosing Starr to replace Robert Fiske, a moderate East Coast Republican as special prosecutor. A coincidence? Perhaps. But in today's suspicion-charged Washington, many will be scant inclined to believe it.

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The precedents of misdemeanour

Nixon: The man who cut and ran

WASHINGTON, 1974

"ONLY IF" you've been in the deepest valley," booms an eerily familiar voice from the video screen, "can you know how magnificent it is to be on the highest mountain top." Comforting words, perhaps, for President Bill Clinton as he faces the humiliation of a Senate impeachment trial, particularly since they come from a former president uniquely placed to appreciate his predicament - Richard Nixon.

We are in the auditorium of the Richard Nixon Library and Birthplace, in a remote corner of the sprawling Los Angeles suburb, and the video being played is entitled, aptly enough, *Never Give Up*. Made a few years before Mr Nixon's death in 1994, it is a 28-minute orgy of rhetorical self-congratulation and justification for the traumatic events that led, in August 1974, to the first resignation of a US president.

Mr Nixon intones from beyond the grave about world peace and the spread of freedom, while skirting as best he can around the lying, cheating and abuse of federal institutions that led the judiciary committee of his time to draw up two articles of impeachment (the quit before they came before the full House).

Watergate takes up the single largest space in the library exhibition - a long wall of pictures, text and audio extracts from Mr Nixon's notorious White House tapes - but the scandal is presented in highly defensive tones as a political plot against an essentially honourable president.

Is this the way Bill Clinton will be forced to present his legacy to the world - a hollow exercise in saving face, in which the uncomfortable facts

BY ANDREW GUMBEL in Yorba Linda, California

must somehow be manipulated to look less embarrassing? Or are the two cases so different that comparisons are meaningless? After all, faced by bipartisan belief that he should go, Mr Nixon did not even wait for the full House to vote upon impeachment. Once the House judiciary committee had voted a single article of impeachment, the men in grey suits were at the White House and, within a week, Marine One was lifting off from the White House lawn to carry him back home to California.

One thing is sure - of the many unrepentant Nixon fans who come to his library to pay homage, few display much sympathy for the way the current president is being treated. Many have trouble even calling Mr Clinton by his name.

"Nixon was just covering up for his group and his people. He didn't attack the whole fabric of society like... like this guy - I can't even call him 'president' any more," said George Shuster, a retired mortician from Connecticut and one-time Republican mayoral candidate. "We put our sons and daughters in Washington as interns to teach them about this great system of ours. To have a man like that taking advantage - why, it's rotten to the core." Mr Shuster's wife saw even greater evil lurking behind the presidency. "Clinton has destroyed the military. The Russians and Asians Nixon fought are now living in the White House! Don't you think there's some kind of communism behind it all?"

A paranoid touch worthy of Tricky Dick himself, one might say. Particularly since public



Nixon leaving the White House for good in 1974; the Watergate building (top); the reporters who broke the scandal, Woodward and Bernstein; and 'Tricky Dick' resigns

opinion is behind Mr Clinton in a way it never was for Mr Nixon. So strong is national opposition to impeachment that only at places such as the Nixon Library can supporters be found in any number.

There are those who believe the impeachment proceedings are little more than delayed revenge by the Republican majority in Congress for the treatment handed out to Nixon

by his Democratic adversaries. Nobody at the Nixon Library was willing to assign such low motives to the Republicans, although plenty were happy to accuse the Democrats of putting politics before principle in 1974.

"I think Nixon got a raw deal," opined Joe Betz from Baltimore. "With him it was a political thing, unlike Clinton, who lies." President Clinton's purported lies are the reason most

Nixonites think he deserves to be turfed out. But what about Mr Nixon's record? He was the man of whom Lyndon Johnson said: "He can lie out of both sides of his mouth at once. And even if he is telling the truth, he lies anyway, just to keep his hand in."

To be fair, some visitors thought Nixon got his just deserts. "He was a great statesman, but he also lied and

abused his power," said a San Diego policeman. "In my job, if I lie I'm fired immediately. The same goes for... what's his name."

Such reflections were not echoed by the staff of the library who, in stark contrast to the more virulent-minded visitors, clearly understood the politics of pots and black kettles. "President Nixon always felt it was unfair to speak out against a sitting president," explained the

library's director of programming, Evie Lazzarino. "This institute aims to celebrate the presidency, not denigrate it."

To the amusement of many visitors, the library is hosting an exhibition on presidential romance - the matrimonial sort, that is. Among the many artefacts, which go back to Lincoln, is Hillary Clinton's wedding gown. It gets plenty of comments, most of them unprint-

able. In the light of recent events, the exhibition comes off sounding remarkably optimistic about the health of both the Clinton presidency and the Clinton marriage. "On October 11, 2000, President Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary in the White House," announces the display above the First Lady's gown. Maybe one shouldn't be so sure.

Johnson: The man who stood and fought to stay in office

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

WASHINGTON, 1868

THE REPUBLICAN Congressman was talking about the American President born into poverty from the border South whom he detested with unforgiving fury, that "ungrateful, despicable, besotted, traitorous man - an incubus".

Bill Clinton, you might imagine. In fact not. The giveaway is the Latin-derived word, incubus, relating to a "nightmare" or "demon". In the 19th century, a knowledge of the classics still meant something. The object of the Congressman's loathing was the 17th President, Andrew Johnson, the last, and at least until today, the only occupant of the White House to be impeached - in 1868.

The two cases are different, not least because Johnson was a clumsy and tactless politician,

nowhere near the league of that eloquent and consummate political operator, William Jefferson Clinton. He was also untested, a Vice-President who had been promoted by accident three years earlier when Abraham Lincoln was assassinated. But despite the space of 130 years and the 24 Presidents which separate them, they are remarkably similar.

Johnson came from Tennessee, a Confederate state, and though he had opposed secession, he sought a less punitive reconstruction for the vanquished South. He had begun life as a Democrat, and only became a Republican with the approach of the Civil War. Almost immediately upon entering the White House he fell foul of Congress,

where the Radical faction of the Republican Party, bent on maximum vengeance on the South, promoted financial aid for freed blacks, and a Civil Rights Act which in some instances would give them greater voting rights than whites. For Johnson, the measures were unfair and infringed states' rights. To the fury of the Radical Republicans, he vetoed them both.

The Congressional elections of 1866, in which Johnson sought to outflank his nominal allies by enlisting the support of northern Democrats brought him only defeat and crushing repudiation. The Republicans' hatred of Johnson only grew: in the words of one Cabinet member, they would have impeached him "had he been accused

of stepping on a dog's tail". Their chance came on 21 February 1868, when Johnson dismissed his Secretary of War, Edwin Stanton, in defiance of a recent law stipulating that such steps required Congressional approval. No matter that the law was unconstitutional. The Radical Republicans went ahead, throwing in some other counts of conspiracy and bringing Congress into disrepute.

Here too parallels abound. Johnson's private life, like Clinton's, was less than pristine. Today's 42nd President has been smeared by sexual scandal and lying to a Grand Jury to cover it up - but nothing to match the insinuations against Johnson, who, it was suggested, had arranged Lincoln's

murder to seize supreme power. Then as now, partisanship swept away all semblance of political civility. On 24 February, Johnson was quickly impeached by a 126-47 vote along party lines, and sent for trial to the Senate on 11 counts in all.

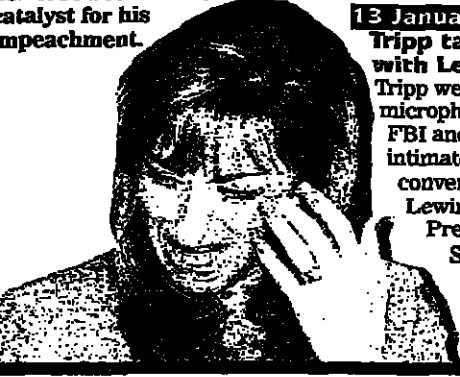
The decisive moment came on 21 May 1868. The Republicans could afford six defections. In fact seven voted to save Johnson's skin. The seventh and last of them was Edmund Ross from Kansas, who was thereafter shunned by his colleagues: evicted from office at the next election; and subjected to vilification by former supporters. History, however, has judged Ross more kindly, as an unsung saviour of the republic's constitution. Johnson for his part managed to serve out the rest of his term. Right now, Bill Clinton would ask no more.



Andrew Johnson, the first American President to be impeached Camera Press

From the moment of madness to the moment of truth:

It's hard to believe now, but a year ago none of us had heard of Monica Lewinsky. She was just one of many ambitious young things who had done an internship at the White House. The "bimbo eruption" on everybody's lips was Paula Jones, who was bringing a sexual harassment suit against the President, and a minor player in her case became the catalyst for his impeachment.



7 January 1998
Lewinsky testifies in Jones case
Called to testify in Paula Jones's sexual harassment case, Monica Lewinsky denies she ever had a sexual relationship with the President. She allegedly asks Linda Tripp, a friend and ex-White House employee, to lie for her as well. But Tripp has another agenda.

13 January
Tripp tapes chats with Lewinsky about the President
Subsequently, prosecutors ask Lewinsky to co-operate



in their investigation. She refuses.

18 January
Rumours fly on the Internet
Matt Drudge, the scandal-monger of the Internet, reports that *Newsweek* has shelved an exposé of an affair between Clinton and Lewinsky.

21 January
Existence of Tripp's tapes reported
The Washington Post reports the existence of the tapes that Tripp made of her chats with Lewinsky.

26 January
Clinton denies sexual relations with Lewinsky
The scandal has enveloped Washington and the world. With newspapers debating the President's demise, he denies having an affair with Lewinsky.

"I did not have sexual relations with that woman," he tells reporters, without elaborating on his somewhat unusual definition of sex.

27 January
Hillary Clinton defends husband on television



Hillary Clinton appears on national television to defend her husband, calling detractors' allegations a "vast right-wing conspiracy".

29 January
President Houdini appears to escape
The Clintons' aplomb, combined with Middle America's indifference, combine to give "President Houdini" his first great escape of the year. Opinion polls show the President's approval ratings at an all-time high.

15 March
Kathleen Willey accuses Clinton of fondling
As Kenneth Starr, the special prosecutor, continues his investigation into the President's alleged peccadilloes, Kathleen Willey, another former White House

worker, accuses the President on television of fondling her by the door to the Oval Office.

2 April
Jones case dismissed
Paula Jones's sexual harassment case against the President is dismissed. Willey's claims fade without making much impact.

2 June
Lewinsky fires lawyer
After weeks of tense negotiations and impasse between Starr's office and Lewinsky, she replaces her high-profile lawyer, William Ginsburg. Starr hasn't managed to convince Lewinsky to testify, but his tentacles are spreading.

30 June 1998
Linda Tripp testifies before a Grand Jury

Linda Tripp testifies before a Grand Jury in Washington. She makes no public comments, but has already become one of the most unpopular women in America. Clinton's approval remains high.



سكرا من الامم

Groundswell of sympathy for Clinton

VIEW AROUND THE COUNTRY

THEY MAY not have watched all of it - the four votes, their President on the White House lawn vowing to plough on, his eyes almost shut with exhaustion and emotion, or even the speech from Bob Livingston, the Speaker of the House-elect, announcing his intent to resign. But yesterday everybody knew what had happened. And most, apparently, did not like it.

There was not shock among the citizenry, but rather a numb acknowledgement that a historical bridge had been crossed. And although there are divisions for sure, a polarisation between those who wanted President Bill Clinton impeached and those who thought the punishment too harsh, the arguing had, on the whole, subsided. In the churches they prayed that the whole thing, however it ends, should be over soon.

True, at the posh Innis Arden Country Club in Old Greenwich, Connecticut, debate still sputtered on. There on the practice putting green, with a tall flag bearing the stars-and-stripes, James Borges argued with his golfing pal Thomas Curtin as he handed him a wrapped gift for Christmas. Mr Borges liked what the Republicans did. Mr Curtin thought it an embarrassing nonsense.

"I think Clinton did wrong and the Republican party was following the principles that were set up in the constitution," Mr Borges said. "Maybe too much has been made of the sex, but the President lied and he should be chased out of office." Mr Curtin rolled his eyes and laughed. "I think this is so terrible because around the world this makes us look like a bunch of idiots."

In numerous interviews yesterday with voters on the East

BY DAVID USBORNE in New York AND ANDREW GUMBEL in Los Angeles

and West coasts finding anybody willing to celebrate the votes on Saturday was a tall order. The common strand was sadness, while a clear majority were angry at the Republicans. The same views were born out by snap polls that showed the popularity rating of the President rising. Notably, the NBC poll showed his approval rating up from 68 to 72 per cent. A total of 62 per cent said he should not resign.

"There is nothing to say at this stage, except to hope that the whole thing backfires on the Republicans terribly," said Tim Pershing, a camera technician in Hollywood, where support for President Clinton remains strong. Bill Rubenstein, a screenwriter, has been trying to spend an hour a day telephoning politicians, conservative think-tanks, anyone who might listen to his argument that impeachment is wrong. "These people are doing something profoundly evil and, for the most part, they don't even know it. So I try to tell them," he said.

Indulging in their ritual Sunday morning hour at their local bagel shop, Alfred and Rosalie Hutter of Stamford, Connecticut, understand that the President erred in his private life but disagree that that warrants his removal from office. "We have just had our 50th anniversary," Mr Hutter, a limousine driver, explained. "The couple celebrated with a QEII voyage to England last month." "Neither I nor my wife have known sexual relations with anyone else in all that time, and what the President did was wrong. But on the other hand I am not so offended by it that I think he

should be driven out. They say he lied to protect his family. Well yeah, we can understand that."

Mr Sutter said the news that Mr Livingston had committed adultery made him laugh. "Actually I was hysterical," he said.

President Clinton, some have suggested, is America's first black President, because of the affinity felt by many in the African American community towards him. In packed congregations at several churches in Harlem yesterday, the mood was one of dismay and intense sympathy for the first family.

At the minuscule St Samuel Church of God in Christ on East 125th Street, the worshippers had to wait for 20 minutes before the 11 o'clock service finally got under way. That was because their preacher, the Rev. Amos Kemper, was in his office discussing the impeachment vote with his fellow church leaders. All were angry.

"They should give him another chance, everybody should be given another chance," offered Katie Stokes. The little plastic badge on her dress might have been for Henry Hyde, the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee. "Ain't nobody God but God," it read.

The Rev. James Duncan watched all of Saturday's proceedings on his television. "They've been trying to put Clinton's back up against the wall in Washington, asking him to confess to perjury and so forth. He can't do it though because they would put him in jail. He is a good president because his is the first president who has been appreciable for us." Does this mean the Rev. Duncan would not vote Republican next time? "I won't be voting



Pro and anti-Clinton demonstrators at the White House as the impeachment was announced Mark Wilson

Republican no time," he spits. "There is no minority in this country who should be voting for that party, because it is the Good Ol' Boy party," the Reverend Kemper interjects. "What we saw yesterday was really the dogma of the human race, the dogma to hurt. The Republicans want to ignore us, the people, and that's got to be wrong."

Seventy blocks south at St Patrick's Catholic Cathedral, where the congregation was al-

most entirely white, Cardinal Patrick O'Connor asked for prayers, not for President Clinton but for the impeachment process - that it should be "resolved soon and justly". They were prayers offered, after all, in a season that is meant to be about peace and goodwill.

George Sinko, a retired advertising executive who travels from Long Island to worship at St Patrick's, is a long-time Republican. His views, however, were with the majority at yes-

terday's service. "What President Clinton did does not constitute an impeachable offence in my view. This whole thing has been entirely partisan. I think it has been terribly unfair and is distracting the country from so many other important things he should be caring about."

As the politicians from both parties in Washington headed home to their districts and their families yesterday they leave one drama behind them and know that another drama

awaits them in the New Year, the expected trial in the Senate. For sure, they will be hearing from their constituents over the Christmas season.

But, as they see the dismay over the partisanship that reigns in Washington, they may want to consider these words written above the make-shift altar St Samuel's Church in Harlem: "We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord and we pray that all unity may, one day, be restored."

VOCAL AMERICANS

Thomas Mann,
Brookings Institution:
"It is not an ennobling time. As someone who's watched national politics for almost 30 years, I've never been so ashamed of our national political leaders, and never so saddened by the behaviour of Congress."



Barbra Streisand,
actress and staunch Clinton supporter: "Who could have imagined that we would be living in a time when those we elected to office would turn off their phones and unplug their fax machines in order to ignore the voices of the American people?"

Walter Isaacson, the managing editor of Time magazine, which named Bill Clinton and Kenneth Starr its "men of the year": "Decades hence, we will still be debating the meaning of the great Clinton-Starr struggle and picking at the lingering wounds."



Arianna Huffington, conservative columnist: "Congress is not the appropriate venue for Livingston to tell his wife, as he did in the middle of an impeachment debate, he loves her... nor is his resignation a sign of political valour. Instead, it blurs irreparably the line between the president's serial infidelities and his serial lying under oath."

Ku Klux Klan man will stand for Livingston seat

REPUBLICAN REACTION

BY ANDREW MARSHALL

AS IF the Republicans needed any more bad news, David Duke, a former Ku Klux Klan leader, has said he will run for the congressional seat vacated by Bob Livingston, the Speaker-elect who resigned on Saturday.

"I am running because there needs to be one member of Congress who stands up for the European-American," Mr Duke said, a message that the party really does not need. Because though it may have got what it wanted - the impeachment of President Bill Clinton - the party has emerged battered, bleeding and deeply divided.

The resignation of Mr Livingston crystallised its problems. He had been appointed just weeks ago after Newt Gin-

grich, the former Speaker, resigned in the wake of the election rout.

Mr Livingston was forced to admit on Thursday that he had damaged his marriage through adulterous liaisons, after a Washington newsletter published details on its web site.

Mr Livingston presented his resignation as an honourable reaction to his problems, and challenged the President to follow suit. But in truth, he was brought down by the anger of conservative members of his own party. The resignation left his colleagues stunned.

"It was like a punch in the stomach," said New York Republican Peter King. "Some members were actually crying on the House floor."

Tom DeLay, the Republicans' chief whip, came appar-



Bob Livingston: forced to resign by colleagues

ently to praise Mr Livingston. "He understood what this debate was all about - it's about honour and decency and integrity and the truth, everything we honour in this country," he said. But Mr DeLay, who was the first target of criticism after the elections saw the Republicans lose House seats, has emerged suspiciously well-placed. The new speaker is likely to be Tom Hastert, a protégé of his from the whips' office.

The Republicans in the Senate have watched aghast as the House party has turned itself inside out. They are unlikely to want a repetition in their House of the same events: weeks of hearings, embarrassing questions and opinion polls that show the public think they are partisan and vindictive.

All of this points towards some early move to broker a deal which sees the President censured.

Bid to remove the chief has unified the party

DEMOCRAT REACTION

BY MARY DEJEVSKY

ALTHOUGH CONGRESSIONAL Democrats have suffered the indignity of seeing their President impeached by a convincing majority in the House of Representatives, they are standing behind Bill Clinton.

The number of Democrats who voted for impeachment came out of the Chamber en masse to protest at the rejection of a censure vote, and massed a couple of hours later at the White House to demonstrate their continuing support for the President. Their leader in the house, Dick Gephardt, strengthened his position and earned widespread respect for his handling of the debate.

The party's solidarity is in marked contrast to the defec-

tions in the congressional party suffered by Richard Nixon 24 years ago and is one crucial reason why Mr Clinton has survived this far.

In the summer, in the wake of Mr Clinton's 17 August admission that he had lied about his relationship with Ms Lewinsky, morale in the party was low and divisions multiplied as midterm elections approached.

But Hillary Clinton's campaigning zeal, and Mr Clinton's strong showing in opinion polls, seemed to rally the party, and the Democrats' election results were far stronger than anyone had expected.

Since then, Democrats have been almost unanimous in their support of Mr Clinton, and his plight may even have served as a unifying force. The orthodoxy now is that he has been



Dick Gephardt: Earned widespread respect

good for the country.

So far, a majority of Democrats has chosen to disregard, or to parry, the vexed question of principle and it is possible that this could become a divisive factor when Mr Clinton is tried in the Senate.

Despite this backing, the White House is said to be worried that momentum could build up behind calls for Mr Clinton to step down, especially after Bob Livingston's resignation from the House speakership on Saturday.

But so long as opinion polls show a majority in the country still approving of Mr Clinton, Democrats seem prepared to rally around their President, and the Nixon precedent of senior party officers arriving at the White House to persuade him to resign seems remote.

William Jefferson Clinton's year of living dangerously

28 July 1998
Starr offers Monica Lewinsky immunity
Kenneth Starr announces he has finally reached a deal giving Lewinsky immunity from prosecution for perjury in exchange for full details about her relationship with the President.

6 August
Lewinsky testifies in front of a Grand Jury
Lewinsky testifies in front of a Grand Jury for six hours.

17 August
Clinton confesses on national TV
On the day of his long-awaited testimony the President tells the Grand Jury, and the nation that he has a relationship with "a lady that was not appropriate". He does not

20 August
Clinton orders bombing of a "chemical weapons plant" in Sudan and a terrorist base in Afghanistan.

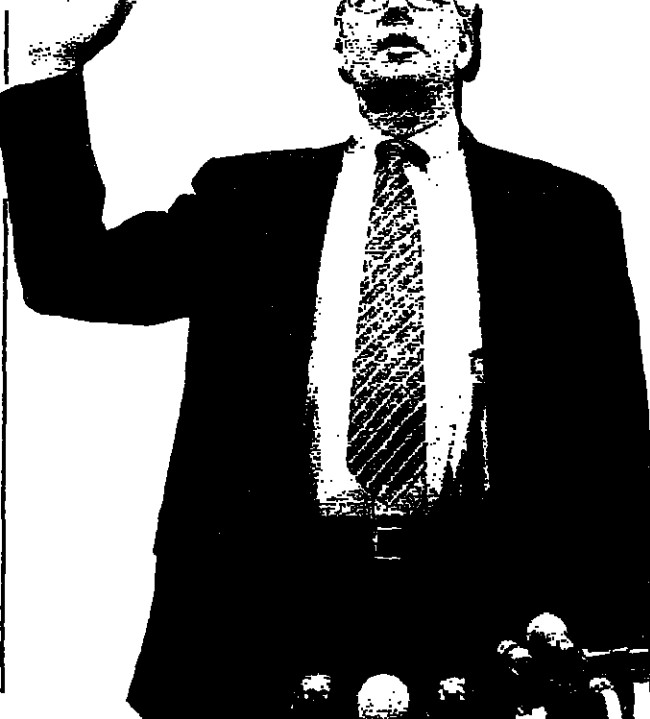
4 September
Clinton says he is sorry
Clinton apologises for the affair: "I'm sorry," he tells America.

9 September

Starr completes report
Starr sends his completed report to Congress under high security. Clinton appears contrite on TV again.

11 September
Starr report published
The Starr report, in all its damning, lurid detail, is published on the Internet.

21 September
Clinton's testimony shown on TV
Clinton's video testimony to the Grand Jury is shown on TV. Predictions that it would



trigger his immediate downfall are wrong.

15 October
Impeachment founders
The impeachment inquiry appears to be floundering.

3 November
Democrats gain seats
Democrats increase seats in the Congressional mid-term elections. Clinton sheds his contrition and regains his confidence - and cockiness.

20 November
Ethics adviser resigns
Starr's ethics adviser resigns after the special prosecutor defends his much-debated report in front of Congress.

23 November
Demand made for impeachment vote
House speaker-elect Bob Livingston insists he wants

ADOPTING THE FIRST ARTICLE

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REPUBLICAN 223

DEMOCRATIC 200

INDEPENDENT 200

TOTALS 7 223 200

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an impeachment vote even if it appears it will go in favour of the President

19 December
Impeachment proposed
The House Judiciary Committee proposes four articles of impeachment.

23 December
Demand made for impeachment vote
House speaker-elect Bob Livingston insists he wants

18 December

Impeachment debate
After lobbying by the President's aides and Hillary, Congressmen launch into a heated and controversial debate on impeachment.

19 December
Vote to impeach
Lobbying fails. The House votes to impeach Clinton.

Strategy aims at endgame for Saddam

MILITARY OPTIONS

TONY BLAIR and Bill Clinton have laid out a new strategy towards Saddam Hussein aimed at containing him militarily and preparing for his end.

The most visible element of the new plan is the dispatch of the British aircraft carrier HMS *Invincible* to the Gulf. George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, said: "It is a very big signal - we are not going away, we remain vigilant."

The ship can mount air and land attacks, and carries up to 24 aircraft - usually a mix of Sea Harrier FA2 fighters, RAF Harrier GR7 bombers and Sea King helicopters.

The carrier, which has been refitted since serving in the Falklands, has a crew of 1,200 men and women.

BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington
AND ANDREW GRICE

There are four main elements in the new strategy of containment, laid out by the US President on Saturday and the Prime Minister yesterday in virtually identical speeches. The first is the readiness to use force. "We will maintain a strong military presence in the area, and we will remain ready to use it if Saddam tries to rebuild his weapons of mass destruction, strikes out at his neighbours, challenges allied aircraft, or moves against the Kurds," Mr Clinton said.

The second element is the maintenance of sanctions. "We will sustain what have been

among the most extensive sanctions in UN history," Mr Clinton said. The US and Britain will support the oil-for-food programme, but "we will insist that Iraq's oil be used for food, not tanks", Mr Clinton said. Again, that means more military and naval action.

"We will be acting to ensure that implementation of sanctions is as rigorous as we can make it, for example through reinforced operations in the Gulf to intercept suspect traffic," Mr Blair said. "We need, radically in my view, to improve sanctions enforcement."

The third pillar is counter-proliferation - ensuring that Iraq does not develop its weapons of mass destruction. This will be much harder with-

out Uncom on the ground providing intelligence. Again, all that is left is military force.

"If Uncom is not allowed to resume its work on a regular basis, we will remain vigilant and prepared to use force if we see that Iraq is rebuilding its weapons programmes," Mr Clinton said.

The fourth is perhaps the most intriguing - the replacement of Saddam Hussein. "Over the long-term the best way to end the threat that Saddam poses to his own people in the region is for Iraq to have a different government," said Mr Clinton.

The US has already stepped up links with the Iraqi opposition, and had said it would work out before the end of the

year ways of disbursing the \$97m agreed by Congress for military training and equipment. "We will intensify our engagement with the Iraqi opposition groups, prudently and effectively," Mr Clinton said.

The US and Britain have also given clear signals that they believe there is someone, or something, waiting in the wings. "We will stand ready to help a new leadership in Baghdad that abides by its international commitments and respects the rights of its own people," Mr Clinton said. "We hope it will return Iraq to its rightful place in the community of nations."

Achieving these goals will require two principal means - military and diplomatic. On the one

hand, both countries have a lot of fences to mend with their allies in Europe, as well as Russia and China.

"We are launching an intensive diplomatic process with other members of the Security Council," said Mr Blair. "with the countries of the region, with our European partners to forge a new strategy for stability in relations between the international community and Iraq."

He put much more weight on diplomacy in his speech than Mr Clinton did in his.

On the other, a continuing military presence in the Gulf will require great expenditure and a shift towards a much more active policy for both nations in the region. The US already maintains a considerable

military and naval force in the Gulf, and it is reinforcing it. It is sending an extra 40 ground-based aircraft, and special air-to-ground surveillance aircraft that will enable the US to track the movements of tanks and vehicles.

The addition of HMS *Invincible* means that, by January, there will be two or perhaps three aircraft carriers in the Gulf. There are currently two US carriers (the USS *Enterprise* and the USS *Cori Vinson*), though the *Enterprise* may be rotated out.

But for Britain, the mission in the Gulf may mark a much more important transition.

Mr Blair has made a long-term commitment to a military force in the Gulf, but also seems

to be making an attempt to forge a quiet new form of strategic alliance with the US outside of Europe.

Britain withdrew its military forces from east of Suez in 1971 because of its reduced circumstances, closing bases and focusing almost exclusively on the Nato mission in Europe.

Now, the return of the *Invincible* seems to suggest a gradual return to the globalism that died out in the Sixties. Britain has also recently bought its own submarine-launched Tomahawk cruise missiles, and is planning two new aircraft carriers. There may be a shift taking place that has profound implications for foreign and defence policy.

Target list suggests more action is planned

THE DAMAGE

BRITAIN AND the United States are claiming that they hit all of the targets on their list in four days of air strikes.

But it is difficult to survey the target lists without coming to the conclusion that this operation leaves the way open for some other form of military action against, or within, Iraq. The focus on military units and communications facilities in the south of the country suggests that Washington and London believe there is a possibility of a revolt against the regime.

The US and Britain have released fairly extensive information about the targets of their strikes and the extent of the damage done.

They have not claimed, as was sometimes the case during the 1991 Gulf War, total victory. They have been more modest in their assessments, fearing the sort of backlash which came in 1991 when it was discovered that not everything that they said had been destroyed was even hit.

The first main category of targets was the air defence system, which was moderately damaged.

The US and Britain hit command centres, surface-to-air missiles, communication links and radar sites across the country. This would have been expected as part of any air attack - it clears the way for aircraft, rather than missiles, to be used. The US said that it wanted to clear an air corridor from the south of the country to the north.

The second main category of attack was the sites associated with weapons of mass destruction. The targets seem to have been principally sites associated with the weaponisation of chemical, nuclear and biological threats - missile factories and repair sites, guidance manufacturers and engine sites.

The US avoided dual-use sites where the chemical or biological agents might have been prepared, partly because these might have entailed civilian casualties, partly because

BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

it said, it feared releasing dangerous chemicals into the air. But it would also be far harder to find these sites, and they might be easier for the Iraqis to patch up.

The message seemed to be that London and Washington still fear that such weapons will be developed, but they want to stop Iraq from being able to deliver them.

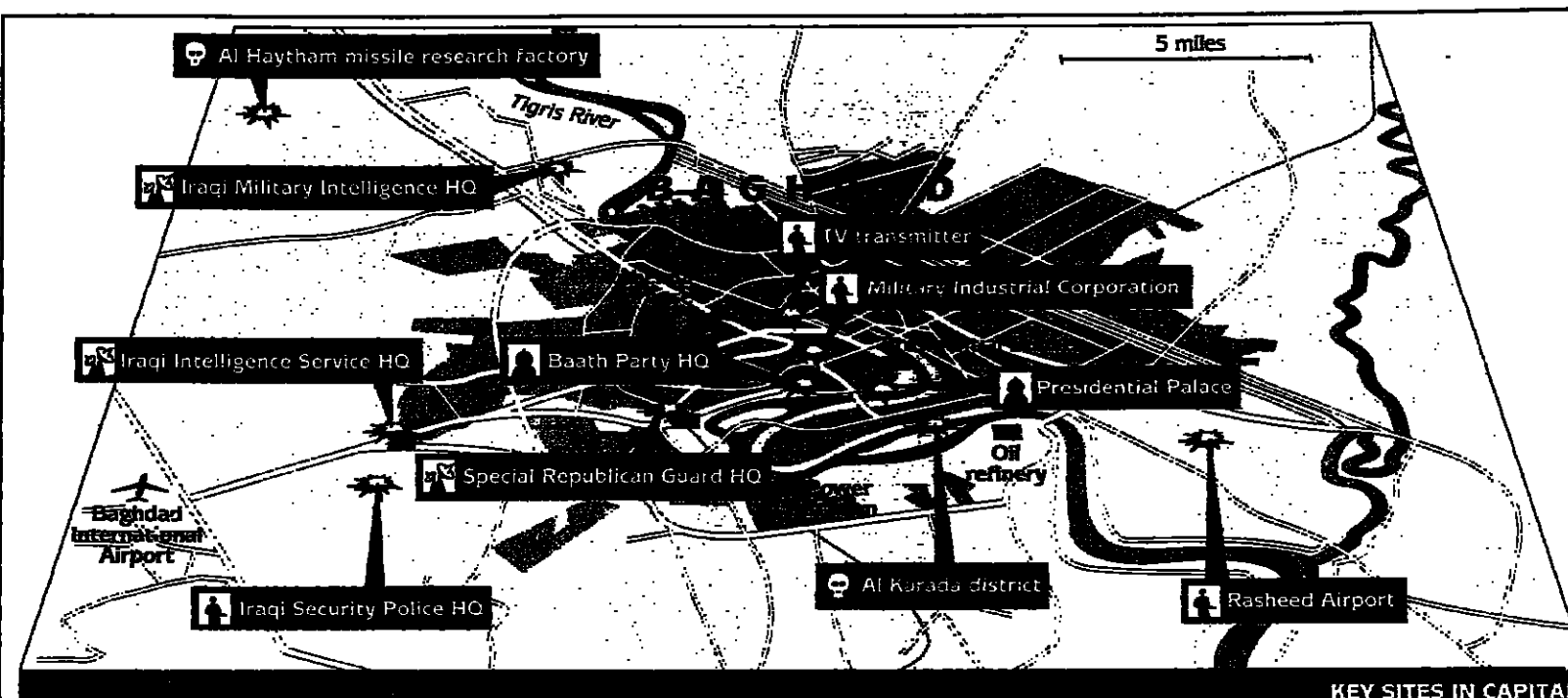
The Pentagon said that it believed it had delayed Iraq's missile programme by a year - that implies it wants to revisit the strikes.

The third category of targets was politico-military. There has obviously been an effort to remove or weaken the upper tier of the regime. The key command centres of the Republican Guard have been selected - corps and divisional headquarters. So have the main barracks and HQs of the Special Republican Guard, the units with the task of protecting the regime, and the headquarters and barracks of all of the intelligence organisations.

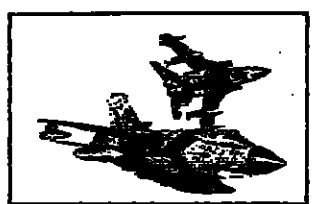
These attacks on security organisations were explained as assaults on the weapons concealment programme, in which all of these organisations played a key role.

But they are also important elements in the regime's internal security. Add to that the other targets, and it looks as if some other military action - either internal revolt, or some sort of limited intervention from outside - is being contemplated. The US destroyed communications facilities tying together the north and south of the country, for instance. These links can be restored within a few months, so there must have been some reason for wanting to weaken the communications in the short term.

And the attacks on assault helicopter bases across the country also indicate that America wants to prevent Iraq from being able to respond to an insurgency.



Statistics of War
American and British aircraft flew 650 strike and support sorties. 97 targets were hit in total. US Navy launched more than 325 cruise missiles. US Air Force launched more than 90 cruise missiles. The twelve RAF Tornado bombers flew 32 sorties and dropped some fifty 2,000 lb bombs.



Damage Assessment
Surface-to-Air Missiles (SAMs), Integrated Air Defense Systems (IADS)
Total Sites Attacked: 32
Destroyed/Damaged: 6
Moderate/Light Damage: 8



Command & Control
Total Sites Attacked: 20
Destroyed/Damaged: 11
Moderate/Light Damage: 6
Under Assessment: 3

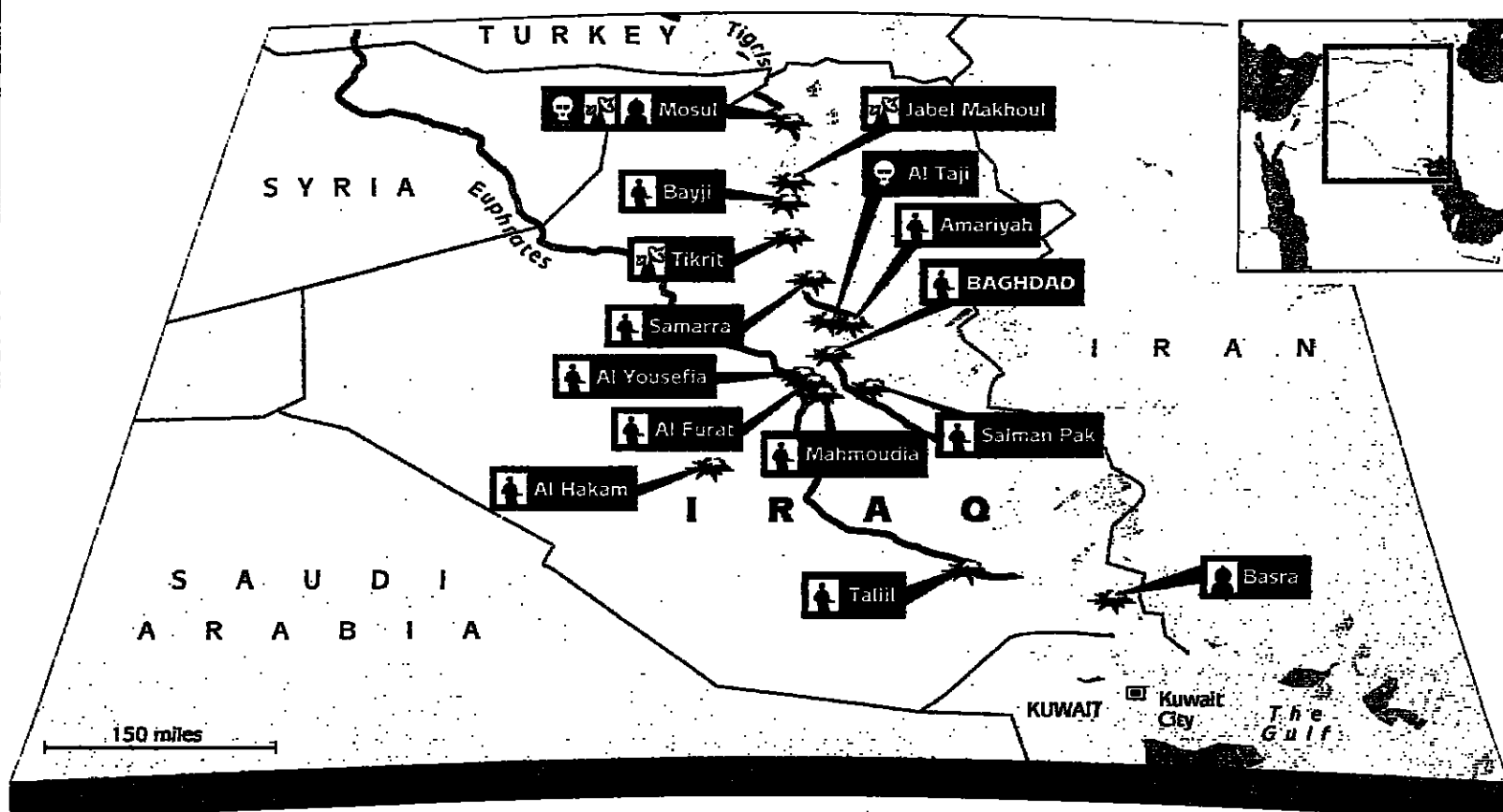
Weapons Security
Sites Attacked: 18
Destroyed/Severely Damaged: 7
Moderate/Light Damage: 11
Under Assessment: 0

Weapons Production, R&D, Storage
Total Sites Attacked: 11
Destroyed/Damaged: 1
Moderate/Light Damage: 9
Under Assessment: 1

Republican Guard & Army
Total Sites Attacked: 9
Destroyed/Damaged: 3
Moderate/Light Damage: 6
Under Assessment: 0

Airfields
Total Sites Attacked: 5
Destroyed/Damaged: 0
Moderate/Light Damage: 5
Under Assessment: 1

Economic Targets
Total Sites Attacked: 1
Destroyed/Damaged: 0
Moderate/Light Damage: 1
Under Assessment: 0



Military and Air Defence Targets:

Communications facilities in An-Nasariyah, Al Rumaylah, Al Qurnah and Baghdad Republican Guard: Southern Corps HQ in Al Kut; Northern Corps HQ in Rashadiyah, Baghdad; Divisional HQs and barracks in Mosul and Kut. Air Defence centre in Baghdad. Surface-to-air missile systems and anti-aircraft sites across the country, including radars, command and control systems and SAM missiles in Tikrit, Bayji, Samarra, Basrah, Ash Shuaybah and An Nasiriyah Major air and military bases at Mosul, Tikrit, Taji and Rashid in Baghdad and other airfields at Al-Sahra (near Tikrit), Al-Asawa, Habaniya, Al Kut and Taji housing pilotless planes and attack helicopters.

Weapons of Mass Destruction:

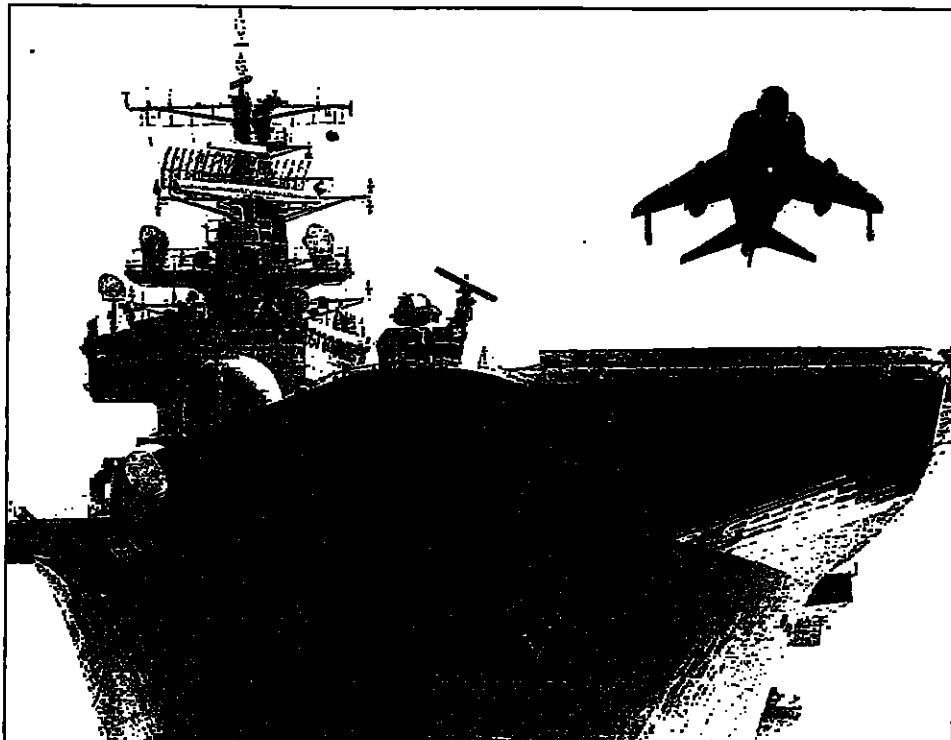
Rashadiyah, northern suburbs of Baghdad: centrifuge development. Jebel Makhoul: Presidential site. Al Taji complex near Baghdad: long-range missile development and missile repair. Al Kindi, Mosul: Missile development site. Al Karama, North-western suburbs of Baghdad: Missile guidance and control. Ibn al Haytham, north of Baghdad: Missile research and development center. Al Rafah, 60km W of Baghdad of Baghdad: Missile engines.

Security and Intelligence Targets:

Iraqi Intelligence Service HQ and ten other offices in Baghdad. Special Security HQ in Baghdad. Military Intelligence HQ in Baghdad. Special Republican Guard bases in Baghdad: Republican palace, Radwaniyah, Amariyah, Hal Al Jihad, Saddam International Airport. Regional HQs and barracks in Tikrit, Mosul, Jebel Makhoul. General Security Service HQ in Baghdad (Al Baladiah area).

Political and economic Targets:

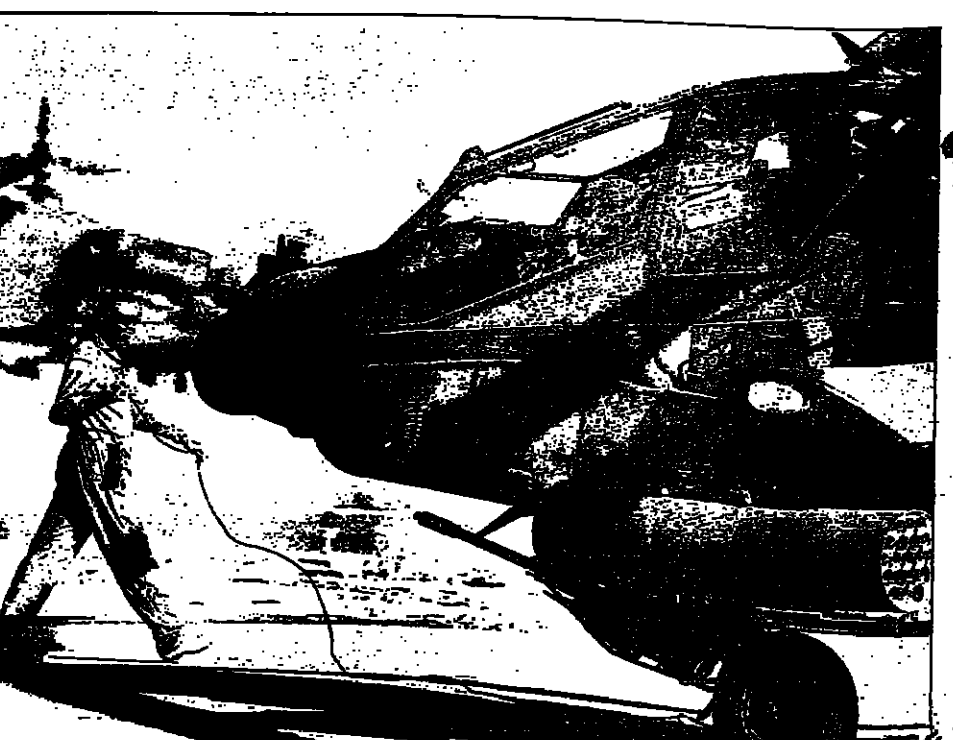
main grain silo in Tikrit. Oil refinery in Basra. The house of Saddam's daughter Hala in Baghdad. The main Presidential Palace complex. The Baath Party Academy in Baghdad. The Baath Party headquarters. The Baath Party Secretariat. Baghdad Museum of Natural History. Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs. Al Mustansiriyah University.



Britain is sending HMS *Invincible* (left) to the Gulf as part of the new strategy to 'contain' Saddam Hussein. Right, ground crew directing an aircraft aboard the USS *Enterprise* aircraft carrier yesterday in the northern Gulf



Black Hook helicopters undergoing maintenance checks close to the Iraqi border after further air strikes were called off



Black Hook helicopters undergoing maintenance checks close to the Iraqi border after further air strikes were called off

Raed Quenel/AFP



Children gather around a huge crater yesterday caused by a missile attack late on Saturday on the Labour and Social Affairs Ministry in Baghdad

Karim Sahib/AP

'Do you think our soldiers were crazy enough to stay in barracks?'

THE VIEW FROM THE GROUND

AFTER THREE days of missile attacks the tops of many tall buildings in Baghdad are cracked open like concrete eggs, the upper stories reduced to a tangle of twisted metal and broken masonry. But most Iraqis think the prime target of the bombing - Saddam's regime - is undamaged.

"It will all be rebuilt in two or three months," said an Iraqi friend. "After all, half the population is unemployed so we are not short of labour. Saddam knew he could take a limited attack like this and declare himself a winner. If the aim was to weaken the regime in Iraq then it was not serious."

Already yesterday, government officials were sounding a triumphant note. "We knew they could not go on firing three hundred missiles a day," said one. He refused to comment on military casualties but added: "Do you think our soldiers were crazy enough to stay in their barracks?"

The short bombardment showed that Iraq has no defence against cruise missiles. The anti-aircraft fire was meagre compared to the fireworks of 1991. But the fact that Sad-

By PATRICK COCKBURN in Baghdad

dam Hussein, the Iraqi leader, is still in place at the end of the air assault seems to be evidence to many Iraqis that he has seen off another challenge to his rule by the United States and Britain - the elephant and the rat, in the unkind comparison of Tariq Aziz the Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister.

Security in Baghdad is tight. Armed Baath party militia are on street corners. Outside the capital it is impossible to know at first hand what is happening. But the willingness of the government to take journalists to Basra, near the Kuwaiti border in the south, suggests that it is confident that they are fully in control, despite the fact that some of the bombardment was specifically aimed at destabilising Republican Guard units in the area.

It was not a war without victims. In the first two days the Iraqi Ministry of Health says 68 civilians were killed in and around Baghdad. Indirect casualties are likely to be far greater. Much of Iraq's 22 million people live on or just



Business as usual: A man chooses fruit at a market in the centre of Baghdad yesterday

Peter Dejong/AP

below subsistence level.

Unicef said that a survey it carried out in October showed that one in five Iraqi infants are suffering from chronic or acute malnutrition.

With so many people only

just surviving from day to day it does not take much to push them below the breadline. For instance, every morning in normal times thousands of labourers gather in different parts of Baghdad waiting to be

hired. They earn the equivalent of about one pound a day. For the last three days they have not been seen.

"People like that have nothing to fall back on," said Margaret Hassan, the head of Care

International, the aid organisation in Iraq. "There are people here so poor that they cannot even afford the 200 dinars - 11 pence - which it takes to buy the official food ration. For a month, I was in a hospi-

tal in Kerbala (in the south) where they had no food to feed the mothers of newborn infants. Children over the age of one were getting a cup of tea and a piece of bread in the morning and nothing else."

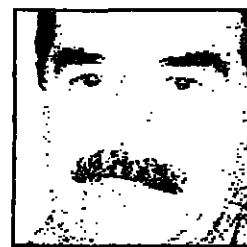
In many ways Iraq has become less vulnerable to high technology attack because it has returned, after eight years of sanctions, to a pre-technological age. There is not a lot left to destroy.

In Saddam City, the huge working-class district of east Baghdad, a local doctor, who did not want to be named, said: "The economic collapse here even generates jobs. People no longer use the telephone, but send messages by hand. Street cleaning is done by men with buckets not garbage trucks. Of course they get paid very little money."

Amidst such massive deprivation a few hundred missiles - frightening though they are as they strike - make little impact on the lives of ordinary Iraqis. It is unlikely to make them rise up against the government, even if they were able to do so against such a tightly organised security system. This is the view of every Iraqi I have spoken to in Baghdad. One man summed up the views of all the others: "In the end, it was not really serious."

BATTLE LINES

SADDAM HUSSEIN
"You were up to the level that your leadership and brother and comrade"



Saddam Hussein had hoped you would be at...so God rewarded you and delighted your hearts with the crown of victory. "God will repay well and crown your heart with clear victory, which will be attested by your enemies"

TONY BLAIR
"We have severely damaged Saddam's ability to produce and repair ballistic missiles. "We have severely set back his chemical, biological and unmanned drone programmes. This...weakens his ability to threaten his neighbours. Just because we can't get in the cage and strike him down, it doesn't mean that we should leave the cage"



untouched. What we have done is put him firmly back in his cage."

"We have reduced the danger Saddam poses, consistent with common sense and a proportionate use of force. I recognise that not everyone around the world has welcomed this action but I believe, at heart, most know its necessity."

"We are ready to strike again if he again poses a threat to his neighbours, or develops weapons of mass destruction."

BILL CLINTON
(after impeachment)

"We are a good and decent country but we have significant challenges we have to face."

"In order to do it right."



we have to have some atmosphere of decency and civility, some presumption of good faith, some sense of proportionality and balance in bringing judgment against those who are in different parties."

"We must stop the politics of personal destruction."

Foreign Office to sell containment

BRITAIN'S DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE

BRITAIN BEGAN a diplomatic offensive yesterday aimed at securing international support for its doctrine of "containment" of President Saddam Hussein and winning over several European allies who are deeply unhappy with the Anglo-American bombing of Iraq.

The crisis in the Gulf has demonstrated once more that Britain has a special relationship with the US. The phrase does not require inverted commas. It is a fact of life, cemented by history, shared language and intensive military and intelligence co-operation, oozing up through the bureaucracy to affect whichever British government is in power.

This time again, an almost instinctive mechanism has functioned. But not to everyone's liking. For all the Prime Minister's claims of backing for the raids among European and moderate Arab opinion, British officials acknowledge that many fences must be mended and many reassurances given.

By RUPERT CORNWELL

And the signs already are that "containment" could run into big problems over the future of United Nations sanctions against Baghdad.

Tony Blair's assertion that sanctions must be tightened seemed to be contradicted yesterday by President Jacques Chirac of France, who insisted that the top priority must be to improve conditions of life for ordinary Iraqis. Urging a "profound review" of the relationship between Iraq and the UN, Mr Chirac said the time had come to re-examine the oil embargo, which was imposed after the 1991 Gulf War.

Britain insists the embargo, eased by more recent oil-for-food deals, should stay - at least until the unlikely event that UN weapons inspectors are allowed back into Iraq and certify that its chemical, nuclear and biological weapons programmes are no more. But France wants at least an

easing of the sanctions, while providing safeguards against Iraqi rearmament. It would be "a politically delicate" question, Mr Chirac acknowledged, with some understatement.

Britain's efforts to explain itself get under way in earnest this morning when the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, holds a two-hour meeting in London with his German counterpart, Joschka Fischer, whose country takes over the rotating EU Presidency in 10 days' time, and who has publicly lamented the bombings of Iraq.

Afterwards, the Foreign Secretary has set aside most of the afternoon for phone calls to his opposite numbers in Russia and EU countries including Italy and France, in which he will "be seeking to win them round to our ideas of containment", officials said last night.

The task may be difficult. If France could be charitably described as ambivalent about the bombing, Italy was explicitly opposed, while Moscow with-



French President Jacques Chirac yesterday Reuters

drew its ambassador to London in protest - though the Government strenuously insists that there has been no long-term setback to co-operation with Russia. And the attacks could have serious implications for future European defence strategy.

At one level, whatever Mr Blair says, they will cast doubt on Britain's commitment to the new "European defence identity" he wishes to impart to the EU, whereby the Union on occasion could take military

action without the direct involvement of the US.

At another, the strikes - effectively taken without consultation with either Britain's EU or Nato partners - may increase resistance to an "out-of-area" function for the alliance, turning into something akin to a global policeman.

This is already likely to be the principal item of controversy at next April's 50th anniversary Nato summit in Washington, charting the alliance's post-Cold War role.

Sidelined Yeltsin warns the Allies

WORLD REACTION

RELIEF THAT the bombardment of Iraq has ended was the common emotion across the international community yesterday, combined in many cases with an urgent desire to avoid a repeat attack.

Though the most vocal criticism of the American and British action came from opposition groups in Arab countries, Boris Yeltsin, the Russian President, issued an urgent warning against further use of military force against Iraq.

"Reason has finally prevailed," he said in a written statement. "It still remains to fully assess the negative political consequences the bombardment led to, not to speak of the victims among the civilian population and the significant damage to the Iraqi economy, which was already bled dry by the sanctions."

Mr Yeltsin's stance of the past few days is the strongest position he has taken against his putative political friends in London and Washington. "It is

By DARIUS SANAI

absolutely clear that the use of force only complicated the solution of the Iraqi problem," he said. "Nobody has the right to violate the UN charter," he added. The Russian President was not informed in advance of the attacks and despite his opposition has appeared helpless to stop them.

Other Western leaders, while avoiding criticism of the action, were careful to emphasise the need for peaceful progress in the impasse between Iraq and the UN. Germany and Japan urged Baghdad to start working with the UN again to avert the possibility of another military strike.

"The German government therefore calls on Iraq to resume its co-operation with the UN," Chancellor Gerhard Schröder said, a comment echoed by Japanese Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura.

Although none of the leaders of Iraq's Muslim neighbours

made any public statements, officials in some pro-Western Gulf Arab countries expressed their reservations about allowing bombardment to be launched from their territory.

In Rabat, the Moroccan capital, there was a demonstration by around 100,000 people, with demonstrators denouncing the "assassin" Bill Clinton and his "pet dog" Tony Blair.

There were similar protests in the West Bank Jordan and Syria. In Damascus, over 1,000 angry demonstrators, mostly students, attacked the American and British embassies.

An British embassy statement said the Ambassador, Basil Eastwood, had formally complained to Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Sharaa asking for adequate protection and compensation for the damage inflicted by the protesters.

Mr al-Sharaa reportedly offered a "full apology" and stressed that there will be suitable protection for all British buildings and nationals.

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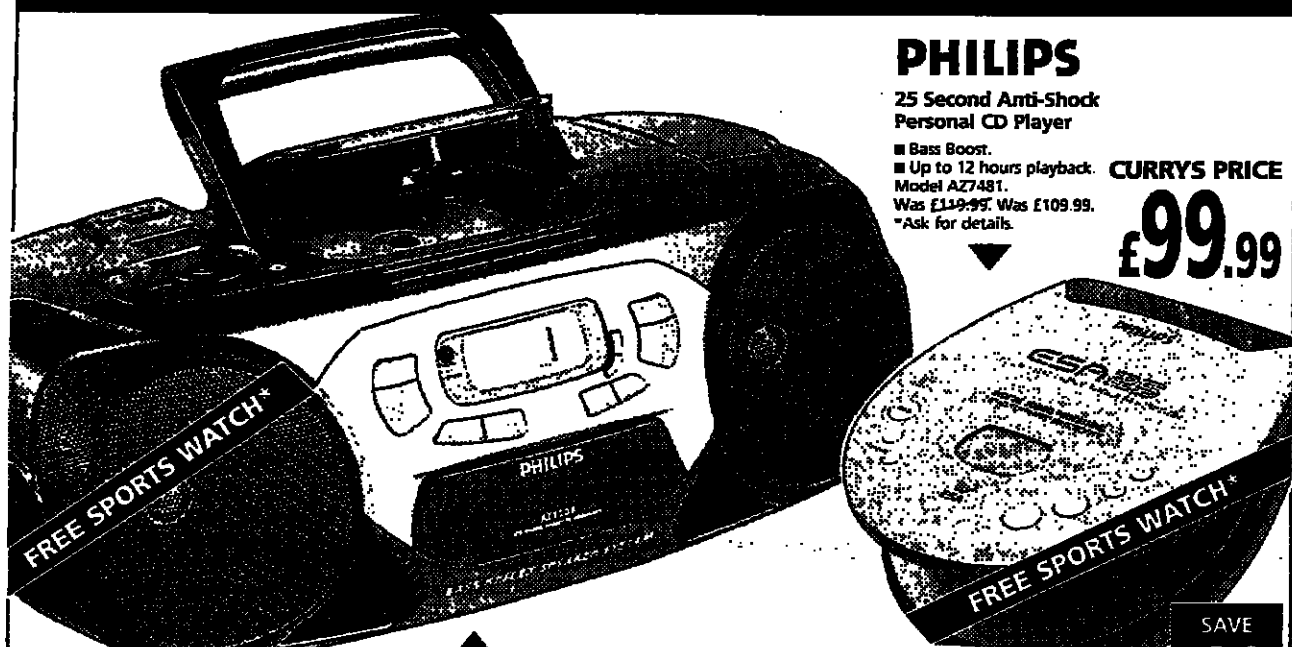
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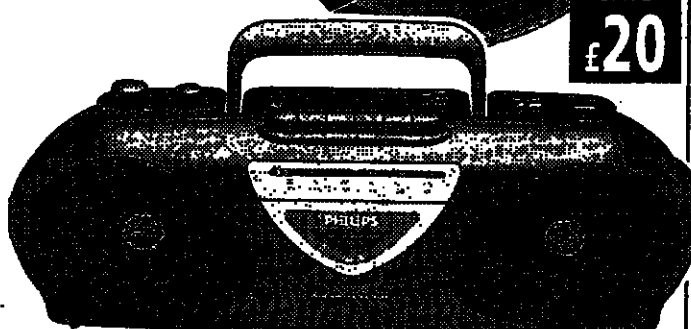
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■ Echo Facility.
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■ Soft feel case.
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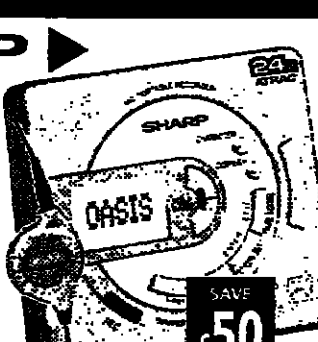
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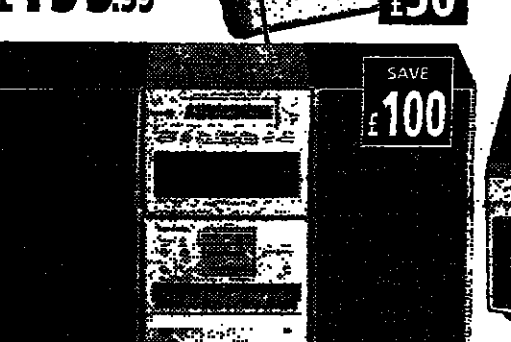
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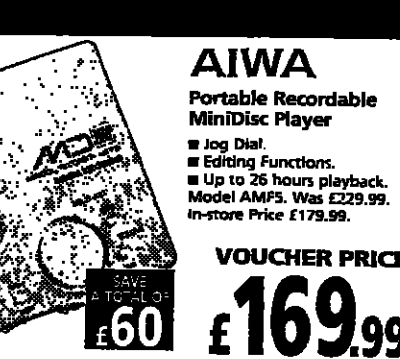
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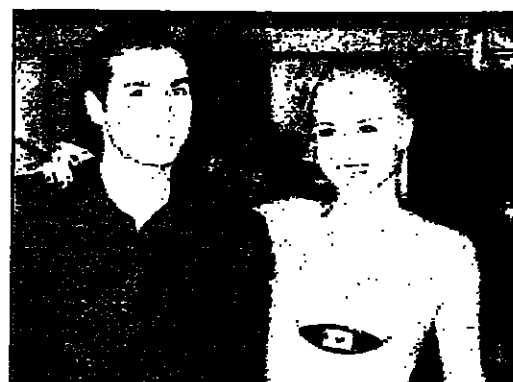
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150 من الاميل



Slade, who will forever reap the reward of their festive No 1



The Spice Girls, left, are No 1 this Christmas after beating Johnny Vaughan and Denise Van Outen. Jimmy Osmond, right, a past winner

Bookies lose on Spice Christmas

IT IS AS much part of the festivities as turkey and the Queen's broadcast. The Christmas No 1 marks the time when the music business abandons its cool image and unleashes catchy, sentimental and downright silly singles on the charts.

Yesterday, Radio 1 announced that the Spice Girls have equalled the Beatles' hat-trick with their third consecutive No 1. "Goodbye", beating off close competition from Chef's "Chocolate Salty Balls", Denise and Johnny's "Especially For You" was number three with

BY GLENDA COOPER

Cher's former chart-topper "Believe" at number four.

The bookmakers William Hill estimate they have lost £250,000 over the past three years due to the Spice Girls making it to No 1. They are already quoting the Girls as favourites for next year at 2-1 and are nervously looking at the weather (the double bet on the Spice Girls and a white Christmas at 8-1 could cost them an awful lot).

John McKie, editor of

Smash Hits, says he was not surprised by the Spice Girls' supremacy: "They are the biggest pop act on the planet, they release a single the week before Christmas - it's not exactly rocket science to see they were going to make it."

But he added that it is not always as clear cut: "Christmas is also the time when people that would never usually get to No 1 can make it, like Mr Blobby or the Teletubbies."

While the rest of the country quails at the thought of Slade's "Merry Xmas Everybody"

(1973), St Winifred's School Choir's "There's No One Quite Like Grandma" (1980), or "Long Haired Lover from Liverpool", Little Jimmy Osmond (1972) blaring out again, for record companies the Christmas No 1 remains crucial.

Estimates suggest a Christmas single can sell three times as many copies as a normal chart topper, with the festive season accounting for 40 per cent of profits. "A Christmas No 1 is a landmark in the calendar," said Steve Redmond, editor-in-chief of *Music Week*.

"A Christmas single can also propel sales of an album."

While the Spice Girls took few risks, their latest offering enjoying a sophisticated PR campaign for weeks, the spin-off from the cartoon *South Park*, voiced by 1970s soul legend Isaac Hayes, took a more low-key approach. The Chef single had little airplay due to its risqué lyrics, and the record company's approach, says Mr Redmond, "was a man dressed as Chef walking up and down Oxford Street with a placard saying 'Buy my record'."

Murder leads to hunt for toddler

POLICE WERE searching desperately yesterday for a two-year-old girl after her mother was found murdered in her home in Liverpool.

It is believed that the woman, 22-year-old Sharon Lester, had been dead for more than two days when her mother found her body. She had been beaten and repeatedly stabbed.

Merseyside police issued an

BY CATHY COMERFORD

had appealed for him to come forward in the hope that the girl may have been with him.

Detective Superintendent Russ Walsh, the officer in charge of the investigation, said: "We just do not know where she is. We would like to think she is safe and well with somebody who is taking good care of the little girl, wherever that may be. But at this moment in time we just haven't got a clue."

Police are particularly keen to speak to two men seen with a van at the house on Saturday, about two hours before Ms Lester's body was found. A police spokesman said: "They may be unconnected, but we are looking for more sightings of the van and for the man or men to come forward and tell us what they were doing there."

Ms Lester's body was found in a downstairs room at the back of the house, police said. Officers were unable to confirm whether anything had been stolen. A police spokeswoman told *The Independent*: "We are trying to establish if any of the little girl's clothes are missing, but obviously it is a very difficult time for the family."

House-to-house inquiries were being extended last night as forensic scientists searched for clues at the murder scene. Relatives, friends and health workers who have come into contact with Jade are being traced, the spokeswoman said.

Neighbours were also being asked to come forward with any information that might help to trace the missing child.



Jade Lester, 2: Mother's body was found at home

urgent appeal for information about the whereabouts of Ms Lester's daughter, Jade. It is thought she was last seen nine days ago, a week before Ms Lester's body was found at her home in the Kensington area of the city.

Detectives have launched a nationwide hunt for Jade. They said it was now "critical" they found the toddler's father, who is believed to be from the area but lives elsewhere.

Yesterday Merseyside police officers were interviewing Ms Lester's boyfriend, John Park, who comes from the Tue Brook area of Liverpool. They

Internet tries to bring God closer

FOR THOSE who believed God's message was getting lost amid the increasing Christmas commercialism, help, of a sort, is at hand. A new gift service guarantees that the Almighty will communicate with you on a regular basis - sending inspirational verses of the Bible via your pager.

The Pages from God facility is one of a burgeoning number of theological gizmos available on the Internet. It will page you 20 times a month - in return for a small subscription.

Or invest in some Testamints, which come in three flavours and have wrappers bearing verses of the Bible. "Next time you're on a train... think: Testamint," reads the blurb for a special seasonal tin. "Pass them round and do the work of an evangelist. You'll be helping to share the Good Chews."

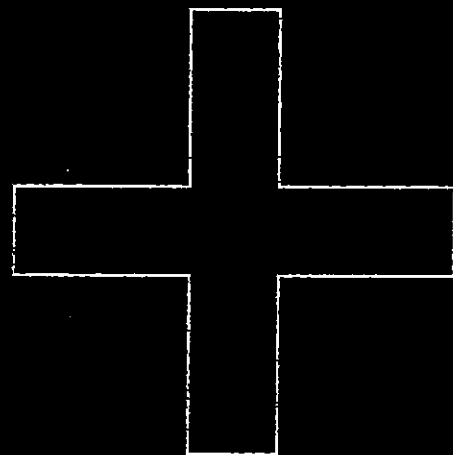
Less tasteful is the Talking Tombstone, a standard granite and bronze memorial, which has the bizarre addition of a

BY CLARE GARNER

built-in speaker. A recorded announcement is triggered by an invisible beam so, every time a visitor approaches, a metallic voice declares something to the effect of "Hi! I was Jane Smith. I died at 10.15am, Thursday, November 25th 1994. Thanks for coming to see me. Have a nice day."

Meanwhile, the Mormons are marketing a Repent! Wristwatch, a constant reminder that whatever time it is, it is always time to repent.

Other suggestions for a last-minute Christmas present for your parish priest include a Cometh the Hour, Cometh the Text digital clock, which flashes up verses of the Bible on the hour. And finally, fun for all the family with an Ecclesiastical Karaoke machine. This digital player has 3,000 hymns to choose from and an optional "Amen" button to bring each rendition to a fitting close.



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IN THE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW

Sneeze and you'll miss it: how to survive the common cold this winter

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HOME TO MUM
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Lockerbie: 10 years on and families pray for the truth

AN EMOTIONAL warning to the British and American governments not to jeopardise a trial of the two Libyans suspected of the Lockerbie bombing was delivered yesterday on the eve of the tenth anniversary of the Pan Am 103 mass murder.

Bert Ammerman, a 52-year-old high school principal from New Jersey, stood outside a church in the Borders town where he spent nine days waiting to identify his dead brother, and expressed the frustration of the victims' families in their search for the truth. "I couldn't care less if these guys are found guilty or not. They are only what we Americans would call 'guppies' - small pawns," Mr Ammerman said after attending the morning mass at Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

"A trial will release the evidence and that's the most important thing. If you don't have a trial you are never going to find the truth. And if a trial doesn't happen, that's a scandalous issue on the heads of the British and American governments."

There has long been suspicion among victims' relatives that it has suited security services not to face the spotlight of a trial.

Mr Ammerman contrasted the readiness of the US to wage war in the Gulf with its tardiness over an atrocity in which 189 Americans died.

BY STEPHEN GOODWIN
Scotland Correspondent

Some 50 relatives and friends of American victims are expected to be in Lockerbie today.

At 7.03pm, during a memorial service, there will be a minute's silence, marking the moment 10 years ago when a terrorist bomb exploded in the aircraft at 31,000 feet, killing all 259 people on board and 11 on the ground in an inferno as the fuel-laden wing section ploughed into their homes.

There will be four simultaneous services - in Lockerbie, attended by Prince Philip; in Westminster Abbey, attended by the Tony Blair; at Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia, attended by President Bill Clinton; and at Syracuse in New York State, which lost 35 university students.

Under a clear blue sky on the last Sunday before Christmas, Lockerbie did not look like a town overshadowed by tragedy. A cluster of about 20 reporters and photographers opposite Holy Trinity church attracted a few curious glances.

But Lockerbie is tired of the media and the grim notoriety the disaster has brought it.

After identifying his brother, Mr Ammerman hoped never to come back to Lockerbie. "I wanted always to remember the carnage, the smell of gaso-

line, the debris and the bodies." But as a leading representative of the American victims' families, he has made a succession of visits in the campaign for answers to the tragedy.

Along the way, he has made friends and seen the town's physical scars heal over. Sherwood Crescent, where Lockerbie's victims were incinerated in their homes, has been rebuilt and looks no different to any other quiet, residential street.

His voice choking, Mr Ammerman told the congregation at Holy Trinity church of the Christmas Eve a decade ago when he sat in the same pew,

"trying to figure out what in God's name was happening". His brother Tommy, who worked for an Arab-owned shipping line, had been on Pan Am flight 103.

His body was found later on the lonely hillside at Tundergarth, four miles from the town where the aircraft's nose cone fell. Now Mr Ammerman feels able to bring his daughters Christine, 21, and Megan, 19, to Scotland to see the town's memorials to the dead.

Mr Ammerman later began an emotional pilgrimage around Lockerbie, starting at Dryfedale cemetery's garden

of remembrance. There he left a bouquet at the memorial inscribed with the names of the victims, and ran his fingers over his brother's name as he said a few words in private.

The card on the bouquet read: "Tommy, you did not die in vain".

Mr Ammerman said another card read: "In loving memory from a loving brother".

Afterwards he said: "In 10 years I have said a lot of things, but today in church and here it is for me personally the most personal and emotional day for 10 years."

He said that the memorial

was a "simple but powerful" one for the 270 victims. Revealing that he had spoken a few words to his dead brother, Mr Ammerman said: "I said, 'You didn't die in vain, we have done the best we can. We're not finished yet but we are near a trial'."

Mr Ammerman hopes that his next trip will be to the Netherlands where, if the Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi hands them over, the two suspects will stand trial under Scottish law. Agreement to a trial in a third country had "boxed the colonel in", according to Mr Ammerman.

He is anxious that the British and American governments do nothing to give Libya a pretext not to hand over the suspects. Western insistence on the pair serving any sentence in a Scottish jail, if convicted, is one big area of concern. The bombardment of Baghdad could also damage prospects for a trial.

Mr Ammerman said he could not quarrel with the action taken by the US and Britain over Iraq, but he admitted "selfishly" he thought it was a setback and was likely to delay any hand-over and arrest of the suspects.

Prescott ire over Lib-Lab deals

BY ANDREW GRICE
Political Editor

JOHN PRESCOTT'S simmering anger at Tony Blair's decision to forge closer links with the Liberal Democrats boiled over in public yesterday.

The Deputy Prime Minister said: "I am not a great fan of it myself. I think if you have a majority of 179, you get on with delivering the promises."

Interviewed on BBC1's *Breakfast With Frost*, he defended Mr Blair's discussions with Paddy Ashdown over constitutional reform but deliberately stopped short of backing their recent agreement to extend it to other policy issues.

"We are a separate party," he said. "I am not a great man for coalitions." Asked if he might end up sitting in the same Cabinet as Mr Ashdown, Mr Prescott replied bluntly: "Not under the way I have described it."

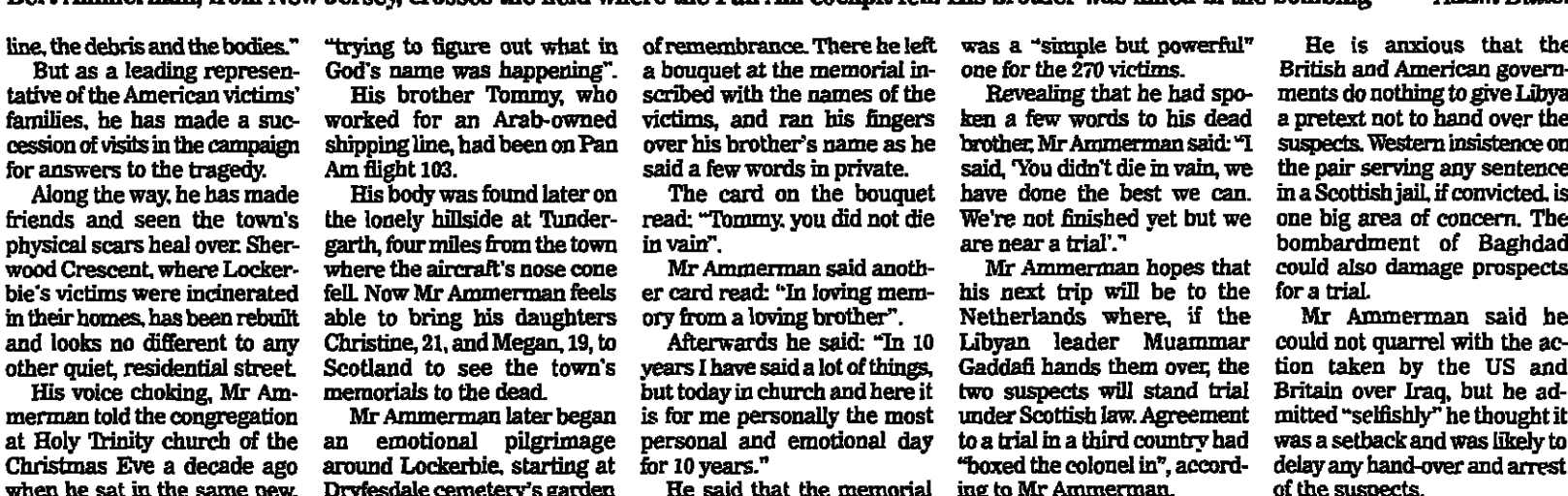
The Deputy Prime Minister's comments will not come as a surprise to Mr Blair. At a Christmas party for Labour staff, Mr Prescott is said to have joked that the party would turn into the Nouveau Democrats in 10 years. But Mr Blair will be worried that his deputy has publicly voiced his doubts. They emerged as Mr Ashdown faced a fresh burst of criticism from his party's ranks over his agreement with Mr Blair to extend co-operation between the parties.

In a pamphlet published today by the Centre for Reform think-tank, two senior Liberal Democrat figures expressed fears that the party will lose its distinctive identity.

Lord Wallace, a frontbench spokesman on foreign affairs, also said that although Mr Blair's strategy sought to "absorb" the Liberal Democrats, he believed the final destinations of the two parties would remain separate.

Neil Stockley, the Liberal Democrats' former director of policy, said: "The [Liberal Democrat] party must develop its own distinctive, branded political message."

Bert Ammerman, from New Jersey, crosses the field where the Pan Am cockpit fell. His brother was killed in the bombing. Adam Butler



RUC sweeps waste ground for corpses

POLICE IN Belfast have begun a search for the bodies of two men, believed to have been abducted and killed by the IRA in the city 20 years ago.

Royal Ulster Constabulary officers yesterday broke up concrete steps at Glencollin Way, an area of open ground close to houses in the republic west Belfast district. This followed an investigation of the area on Saturday, when police used devices similar to mine detectors to scan the ground.

According to one unconfirmed report, the search followed a telephone tip-off to a relatives' group, which may have come from the IRA.

The development has raised hopes of progress in finding the bodies of more than a dozen people missing since the Seventies, who have come to be known as "the disappeared".

BY DAVID MCKITTRICK
Ireland Correspondent

The present operation is a search for the bodies of Brian McKinney, 22, and John McClory, 18, who vanished in west Belfast in 1978. They are assumed to have been killed and buried by the IRA.

McKinney's mother, Margaret, said: "The search gives me some hope and I prefer this to nothing - at least something is being done. But I am wary of being too hopeful. I have been left shattered too many times in the past."

"I do feel that Brian is buried somewhere in that area and I hope that this search will bring results. I just want his body to be found. I want to be like every other mother of victims of the Troubles, to have a grave that I can visit and tend."

Many families of the disappeared have been involved in a four-year campaign, pressing the IRA to reveal where their relatives are buried, but progress has been slow.

The IRA recently admitted that the burials had caused "incalculable anguish to their families" but claimed that pinpointing the graves was extremely difficult because of changes in IRA leadership, the deaths of some of its members and the passage of time.

More than 170 paramilitary prisoners, both loyalist and republican, will be released from prison this week for the annual 10 days' home leave. With more than 200 already freed under the terms of the Good Friday Agreement, this means that fewer than 100 inmates will remain behind bars at Christmas.

Archbishop attacks Dome

THE MILLENNIUM Dome is a symbol of man's arrogance that contrasts starkly with the humble birth of Christianity 2,000 years ago, the Archbishop of York, Dr David Hope, said yesterday.

The Archbishop made an impassioned attack on the controversial project, calling for Christians to remember the humble origins of Christmas.

Dr Hope drew a contrast between the nativity and what he calls the "self-glorification

of man" which he said the Dome represents. "What a stark contrast there is here with the way in which it is proposed we are to celebrate in a year's time the second millennium of this birth," he said in a newspaper interview.

"The great humility of the manger has now become the hubris of a dome, a dome to celebrate the apotheosis of man rather than the glory of God ...

"The celebration and preparation for the second millennium of the Saviour's birth ought to be a ... recognition of our human fragility, frailty and finiteness."

His words are likely to inflame feelings among some Christians that the Dome lacks a Christian emphasis.

Dr George Carey, Archbishop of Canterbury, appeared unmoved by the latest Dome row yesterday and was said to be fully supportive of the project.

IN BRIEF

Branson balloon dodges storms

AFTER SURVIVING a night of fierce storms, the Virgin entrepreneur Richard Branson and his crew soared over central Asia last night heading for the Himalayas on day three of their attempt to circle the globe in a balloon. "Somebody was looking over us last night," Mr Branson said. "We not only missed the storm but also missed Iraq by 60 miles, Iran by seven miles and Russia by 10 miles."

Police car swept away in flood

TWO POLICE officers escaped injury when their patrol car was washed away in a flash flood in Cornwall on Saturday night. The officers climbed out of a window and on to the roof of their car after it was swept 100 metres downstream in the Gweek area. They then managed to leap to dry land. The car reportedly filled with water.

Nobel prizewinner dies at 84

PROFESSOR ALAN Hodgkin, one of Britain's most distinguished biologists, has died aged 84, his family said yesterday. Sir Alan won the Nobel Prize for medicine in 1963 with Professor Andrew Huxley and Sir John Eccles. They discovered how nerve cells transmit electrical impulses from the skin to the brain and back again.

Mummified body found in Suffolk

A MAN'S BODY found at a beauty spot was mummified and he may have been dead for years, detectives said yesterday. The man, thought to be in his twenties, was found on Friday at Fen Meadow Park, Woodbridge, Suffolk. A post-mortem examination failed to uncover any obvious cause of death and officers have no idea of the man's identity.

Five share £11.8m lottery prize

THE WINNING numbers in Saturday night's National Lottery £11.8m jackpot draw were 9, 10, 18, 25, 26, 48, with 34 the bonus. Five entries shared the first prize, winning £2.3m each.

STEVEN BERKOFF



Madness for actors is par for the course, but great actors are extremely sane

IN THE MONDAY REVIEW PAGE 4



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Briton jailed over heroin faces retrial

A BRITISH woman who tried to smuggle heroin out of Pakistan is facing the possibility of a further 10 years in a Karachi jail - despite having already served her prison sentence.

The Foreign Office is investigating the case of Rosemarie Morley, 31, a single mother. She was due to return to Britain earlier this month after her time in prison. Her treatment at the hands of the Pakistani authorities, who plan to try her again for the same crime, is a violation of human rights, international law and Pakistan's constitution, say British legal campaigners.

Ms Morley and her boyfriend, Markus Mifad, both from London, were caught at Karachi airport with 2.8kg of heroin each in July last year. The drugs were hidden in the mechanism of their suitcases. Although the couple insisted they did not know what the packages in their luggage contained, they pleaded guilty to smuggling the drugs, believing their sentences would be lighter. Ms Morley, who suffers from clinical depression, was sentenced to three years and nine months in prison but had been due for early release on 11 December, after winning remission for teaching English to children in Karachi Juvenile Jail where she is held. In September this year she learnt that she was to be charged again over the same incident, but this time with possession of drugs, rather than smuggling.

Rana Shamim, her legal representative in Karachi, said the charges had been brought under a new Pakistani law,

BY CATY COMERFORD

which allows for someone who has been convicted of drug smuggling to be charged with possession and the case registered a second time.

Mr Shamim said: "We are challenging this in the High Court as a direct violation of the constitution. This law has not yet been tested but it contravenes article 13a of the constitution, which says no person shall be prosecuted or pun-



Rosemarie Morley: Could be jailed for second time

ished for the same crime more than once."

Stephen Jakobi, founder of Fair Trials Abroad, which is campaigning on Ms Morley's behalf, said: "It is established in British and international law that a person cannot be tried again for the same offence."

He added that other British nationals and Europeans had suffered similar miscarriages of justice in Pakistan. "I am particularly concerned for Rose-

marie Morley because I understand she has been clinically depressed and because she is a single parent," he said. "But there are others."

Ms Morley's eight-year-old son, Matthew, has been staying with his grandparents Eric and Lorna in London. The family had expected her to be home for Christmas. Mr Morley, 67, said: "She is a bit headstrong, but she is a good girl, a good mother. We were all geared up to having her home. Then we heard about this other girl who pleaded guilty a second time, thinking it would get it over with, and got 10 years."

"We are afraid this might happen to Rosemarie."

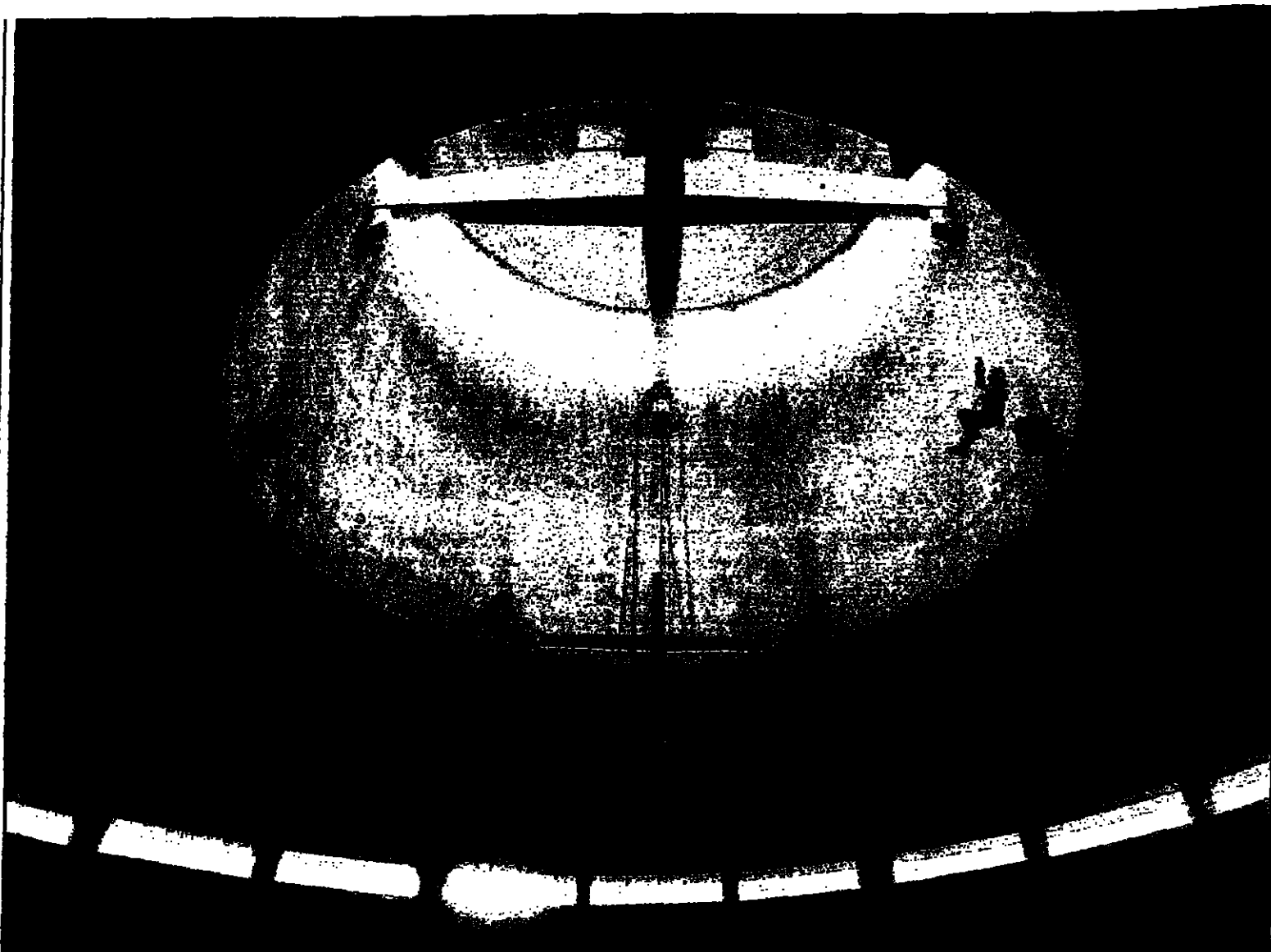
A second British national, Mark Cornish, 37, also convicted of smuggling heroin, could face a second charge despite, having already served 18 months in jail.

His mother, Shirley Dunning, from Chesham in Surrey, said: "He was sentenced to four years but got remission."

"I phoned the consulate to try to get a release date and they said, 'Don't bother. As soon as he is released he will be rearrested.'"

A Foreign Office spokesman said: "We are aware of the cases of Rosemarie Morley and Mark Cornish. We do not believe that it is good criminal justice practice to try two similar offences arising out of the same facts separately."

"We need to determine exactly what Rosemarie and Mark are charged with and if and how these charges differ from the previous charges and also why they are now being charged with these offences."



Climbers hanging from the central lantern of Worth Abbey, near Crawley in West Sussex. Monks at the Benedictine abbey, designed by Francis Pollen, have been unable to clean the windows or the crucifix since the lantern was completed in 1974

John Voos

Nasa probe approaches asteroid

BY STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

THE FINAL approach has begun to put a spacecraft in orbit around an asteroid for the first time, in a manoeuvre that could one day result in robots mining the mineral-rich rocks of space.

It will also be used to test ways of landing rockets on asteroids that are in danger of colliding with Earth, to shift them into safer orbits.

Scientists from the American National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) yesterday fired the rocket engines of a space probe flying beyond Mars to accelerate it towards its final target: Eros, an asteroid the size of London.

By the end of next month the Near spacecraft will have come alongside its quarry and begun the complex series of manoeuvres designed to bring it within a few miles of the surface. The Near probe, which cost £138m, will for the next 12 months photograph, measure, monitor and map Eros from orbit to make it the most studied asteroid to date.

At the end of the year-long mission, in the first weeks of the new millennium, Nasa scientists hope to bring the probe to within a few feet of Eros, and even test land it on the asteroid's rock-hard surface.

The most difficult part of the mission began yesterday with a main engine burn to accelerate the spacecraft towards a rendezvous with the faster-moving asteroid.

Carl Filcher, a Nasa scientist, said that knowing more about asteroids and how to approach them may one day be useful if the Earth is ever threatened by a collision. "It is prudent to learn the properties of these objects, if one day we find one with our name on it and we have to do something about it," he said.

Scientists estimate there are about 1,500 asteroids that pass close enough to Earth and are big enough to pose a threat if they



An artist's impression of the £139m Near probe

ever hit the planet. A small asteroid just 33ft wide exploded over the Tunguska region of Siberia in 1908, destroying over half a million acres of forest. In 1989, an asteroid 0.25 miles wide and weighing 50 million tons came within 400,000 miles of

Earth, passing the same point in space just six hours apart.

Eros, a potato-shaped body 26 miles long and 9 miles wide, is 240 million miles away and poses no threat to Earth. But it offers scientists the best opportunity to find out more about the mysterious lumps of rock left over from the formation of the planets.

Eros is an S-type asteroid composed of silicates enriched with metallic iron. The analysis of its composition will help to determine the part it played in the birth and evolution of the solar system, said Professor William Boynton, a Nasa scientist at Arizona University.

"This is the first time ever a spacecraft will orbit an asteroid. There have been fly-bys and

snapshots, but not much in the way of quantitative scientific data," he said.

Robert Farquhar, of the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, where some of the Near instruments were built, said: "What we know of asteroids is very limited. But now we're going to go into orbit around an asteroid and study it intensely for a year. We expect to get astounding information."

Although Eros is 240 million miles from Earth, the Near probe has travelled more than 1.5 billion miles since its launch in February 1996. It has flown an indirect route, which included a return trip to Earth to use the planet's gravitational pull as a "slingshot" to throw the probe back into space.

Call to cut diesel damage

BRITAIN WILL today propose a massive Europe-wide cutback in particulates, one of the most harmful air pollutants.

The microscopic particles of soot and other matter can collect deep in the lungs. They are thought to trigger up to 8,000 premature deaths a year in the UK alone in people with respiratory and heart diseases.

The principal source of particulates is diesel engines in lorries, buses and coaches.

In Brussels today the Environment minister, Michael Meacher, will be urging his

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY
Environment Correspondent

counterparts from other EU member states to adopt strict new particulate limits, which would mean special emissions-reduction technology fitted to all new heavy diesel-engined vehicles in Europe by 2005.

Europe's green ministers are already likely to agree that there should be a 30 per cent cutback on the current levels of particulate emissions from new vehicles from 2000, and the European Parliament has

called for a further 50 per cent cutback by 2005. But Britain wants the further reduction to be even tougher, at 80 per cent.

Other member states with heavy vehicle industries, especially Italy, are likely to oppose the plan on the grounds that it would be too expensive and difficult. But the Government believes the technology already exists to allow it and says it is not prohibitively expensive.

Also on the agenda will be tough new limits for another heavy vehicle pollutant, oxides of nitrogen, known as Nox.



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MILLENNIUM BUG WATCH



A BIG concern among companies is whether their suppliers and customers will be "millennium compliant". This has led to a blizzard of post as companies send letters to anyone whose address is on any of their databases demanding to know how, when and for how long they will be able to deal with the years beyond 1999.

A few of those letters have arrived on this desk and immediately been filed in the bin. But some firms have been responsive. A notable letter comes from Ahead Software, about its Nero software, and was reported by Computing magazine. "Nero will properly process dates beyond 31 December 1999," the letter began. "However, Nero will not be able to read CDs with file dates beyond 32 December 1999 correctly. The file date will be displayed incorrectly. This is a Dos problem and not caused by Nero."

Quite. But is it more or less worrying that the letter was signed by a human rather than being entirely computer-generated?

CHARLES ARTHUR

Tips, tales to: bug@independent.co.uk

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My day-long ordeal as a 75-year-old

By JACK O'SULLIVAN

I THOUGHT the morning after the Christmas office party, that I knew what it was like to be 75. But that was before I was given an old age makeover, designed by gerontologists.

In a few moments, using cheap and easily available materials, they took me, a 37-year-old man, and transformed me into a vulnerable, isolated old person, fumbling at the simplest of tasks.

For any man, hoping not to turn into his father, it was a depressing experience. It left me feeling that there is no escape from that fate. But it was also illuminating. I understood a little better what life is like for my dad. I'll be less critical in future.

We started with the eyes. Anne Parr, from Age Concern, which supplies the ageing kits, fitted me with goggles, which gave me tunnel vision. It is, she said, a common handicap, springing from high blood pressure or a stroke.

To this she added a weighted strap around my right wrist, simulating loss of muscle strength and another around my left ankle as though, after a stroke, that side had become slightly leaden.

A double pair of surgical gloves helped me to appreciate a diminished sense of touch that comes with age as well as making my joints stiffen as the gloves warmed up.

And the final element was earplugs. "From 25," explained Ms Parr, "there is a slight loss of pitch and tone, but it is so gradual that you don't notice it." I certainly noticed the earplugs. It was not just that conversation around me was muffled. I felt cut off from Ms Parr and our photographer as I caught snippets of the conversation about as well as if I was lying head down in the bath. And, as I withdrew, lost in concentrating on what was going on, they seemed to ignore me, like some old person, passive, in the corner.

We ventured out. The plan was to test myself on Oxford Street and buy a dressing gown, my Christmas present for my dad, who is 78. I thought, if I could step into his skin for a few hours, perhaps I might also choose his attire as well. It was frightening to step out, like the first time you let go



THE INDEPENDENT
APPEAL

of the side at a swimming pool. The light seemed so bright, a complaint that many older people have, explained Ms Parr, which is why so many wear shaded glasses. And I couldn't tell immediately where either she or the photographer was, lost in the mêlée around me. The combination of poor vision and muffled hearing made the world seem unsafe. Edging on to a zebra crossing was an act of faith. I began to understand why older people stay in their homes, take refuge in familiarity and how brave those are who boldly carry on with the busy life I take for granted.

I also gained a glimpse behind those grim old faces you sometimes see walking purposefully, head down, along the street, oblivious to all around them. I had always assumed that illness, grief or simply fear of death had etched such a humourless expression on some faces.

But there is another factor - determination. When you can't hear or see properly and your limbs don't seem to co-ordinate quite as they should, you become single-minded. I found myself staring at the pavement, making sure that I didn't trip. There was no time to window-shop, admire the crispness of the day, look at the Christmas lights or flirt with a beautiful woman.

I know London's Tube stations well and travel on them daily. Yet that grim determination also seemed necessary to counter a sense of disorientation, as I searched for the right escalator, as I was jostled by rushing younger people. Even finding the right money for the fare was a problem, as my gloved hands couldn't distinguish the coins in my pocket. Had I just dropped a tenner on the ground? I wondered, peering around my feet like Mr Magoo.

Oxford Street was a blur and staring into shop windows was too much trouble. The de-

partment stores where I hoped to buy the dressing gown seemed vast and mysterious as I searched for some indication of where the men's clothing department was (I now know why my dad just sends cheques at Christmas).

Fortunately, Ms Parr was there to guide me through the hubbub, as I grew increasingly into one of those apparently passive, dependent, elderly people who seem to have handed over their lives to a more youthful companion.

As it happened, we had wasted our time. I could not tell, by touch, the difference between a silk dressing gown and a cheap cotton one.

"Can we stop for coffee," I asked, echoing my father's words whenever he goes shopping. The relief of sitting down and becoming orientated was wonderful. Yet as I ate my pastry I had no idea whether I was spilling crumbs down my front and humiliating myself further.

Ms Parr, who uses the "Through Other Eyes" kit on company executives to give them insight into their customers, reassured me that it isn't quite this bad to be infirm. It happens slowly, she said. You adapt gradually.

But as I took a breather on my way home and chatted to Alan Burley, 73, on a day trip to Oxford Street from Hull, I could only admire his courage and determination. "You're a hero," I told him.



A prematurely aged Jack O'Sullivan discovering the problems of coping with tunnel vision on London's escalators Andrew Buurman

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Earliest church discovered in Red Sea port

By DAVID KEYS
Archaeology Correspondent

ARCHAEOLOGISTS HAVE discovered the world's oldest known purpose-built church - and are predicting even older ones will be found in the future. The discovery, in the Jordanian Red Sea port of Aqaba, pushes back Christian architectural history by several decades. Built between 293 and 303, the building pre-dates the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem and the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, both built in the late 320s.

The Aqaba church is the first purpose-built Christian place of worship discovered from the period before Christianity found favour with the Roman imperial government. Indeed, it pre-dates the greatest of all the Roman anti-Christian persecutions, which was carried out in the reign of Diocletian in 303-313.

Constructed in the form of a large east-west oriented basilica, with apse and aisles, the building also had a narthex, a chancel screen as well as an adjoining cemetery. Excavations have unearthed walls up to 4.5 metres high and a col-

lection box with coins. "The discovery is very significant for the history of Christian architecture and of Christianity itself," said the director of the excavation, Professor Thomas Parker, of North Carolina State University.

Historical texts indicate that there were many more such churches built, according to Professor Parker. "It is quite possible, even likely, that other late third-century churches may soon be discovered."

Likely locations include Antioch, Ephesus and Nicomedia (all now in Turkey), Sidon and Tyre (Lebanon), and Alexandria and Carthage (North Africa).

Aqaba church appears to have been abandoned during the great persecution of 303-313, then refurbished sometime between 313 and 330. It was destroyed by an earthquake in 363. During its first phase, the church would have held about 60 worshippers. After the Great Persecution, phase two would have allowed it to hold up to 100.

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'Peas for votes' storm as St Petersburg goes to polls

THIS IS a very bad time to be a liberal democrat in Russia.

Take several incidents over the past few days alone: a school in the Urals has unveiled a bust of Stalin; Communists have been clamouring for the return of the monument to Felix Dzerzhinsky, the ruthless founder of the KGB, outside the Lubyanka in downtown Moscow; the mayor of Moscow,

BY PHIL REEVES
in Moscow

Yuri Likhov, a leading presidential candidate, held a week-end congress of his new political party (Fatherland) and announced the era of radical liberal reforms was dead. "The experiment is over," he declared. The liberal democrats themselves - a mixed bag ranging

from opportunist free-marketters to genuine liberals - are in shock caused by the murder a month ago of one of their leading lights in parliament, Galina Starovoitova, adviser to Boris Yeltsin in the perestroika era. Their influence has shrivelled. And anti-Semites have been spouting freely in parliament. And yet there is one small corner of hope, in what used to

be the tsars' city of St Petersburg. Yesterday saw the second round of municipal elections in the city - which is, by tradition, a seedbed for Russia's liberal intelligentsia. Democrats were hoping to consolidate gains made after the assassination of Ms Starovoitova. Outrage at her murder was one reason for an unprecedentedly high turn-out of 40

per cent in the election's first round on 6 December, when the anti-communist liberals - notably the Yabloko Party - did well. Underlying this was impatience with runaway corruption and crime in St Petersburg, which has seen repeated assassinations and the evolution of mafia-style criminal gangs who control a large section of business, including cemeteries.

But, while the election results, expected early today, may give democrats a rare cause for celebration, the campaign itself has not. The elections have been marred by some of the dirtiest tactics witnessed in Russian politics. There were allegations that pensioners were given tins of peas for votes; phantom candidates with the same names as

genuine participants appeared on ballot papers. Smears and counter-smears abounded. Whatever the outcome, the so-called democratic camp has a long way to go if it is to do well in national parliamentary elections next year and - crucially - make a credible challenge for the presidency in 2000. After the Starovoitova murder, most of their leading lights

- former prime ministers Yegor Gaidar and Sergei Kiriyenko, and leading ex-ministers Anatoly Chubais, Boris Federov and Boris Nemtsov - announced a coalition. However, a key figure has refused to play ball. Yabloko's leader Grigory Yavlinsky. While he stands apart, the liberal democratic vote, or what's left of it, could be dangerously split.

Expats fight for justice in Italy

EXPATRIATE LECTURERS in Italy say universities are continuing to flout European Union employment law on pay and rights, despite court rulings and an official reprimand from Brussels. They say rather than grant them parity with Italians, universities from Trento to Catania are trying to force them to take pay cuts and sign away their acquired rights. They are being told that if they refuse there will be job losses and restructuring.

Foreign language lecturers have been battling for more than a decade for recognition that they are not just colourful figures there to lend a hand to the real teachers and a touch of authenticity to language courses. In most Italian universities they carry out 90 per cent of the teaching, plus writing, supervising and marking exams. But many of them net as little as one million lire (£257) a month, as opposed to the three million lire of a native Italian.

"One of the most recent breaches was at the Università Federico II in Naples where 19 lecturers received a registered letter telling them to report to

BY FRANCES KENNEDY
in Rome

the personnel office within 48 hours and sign new contracts, which drastically curtailed their salaries and rights. Failure to do so would mean their employment was terminated," said David Petrie, a tenacious Scot, the founder and president of the Association for the Defence of Foreign Lecturers.

From his home in Verona, Mr Petrie directs an incessant flow of faxes, letters, press releases and legal challenges. Over the years his pursuit of justice has become an obsession. Several times he has taken to court his own university in Verona - and won - but is still waiting to see his legal victory translated into reality. He is not alone. About 1,000 of the estimated 1,500 foreign language lecturers in Italy are involved in legal proceedings. "The ridiculous thing is that even Italian judges have upheld our claims but the university boards and rectors simply refuse to comply. The ministry says the universities are autonomous but I bet no university back in Britain would ever



David Petrie, a Scot working in Verona, who is challenging the Italian government over the rights of foreign lecturers

Nick Cornish

claim they were above the law," added Mr Petrie.

The trials and tribulations of the *lettore stranieri* go back some years. Foreigners were traditionally employed on annual renewable contracts until their case became a test of EU credibility, regarding the equal treatment of European nationals within each state.

The foreign lecturers won two landmark rulings. The first, at the European Court of Justice in 1995, established that, because Italian lecturers had open-ended contracts, non-nationals should have the

same. "After the 1995 ruling, the authorities simply shifted the goalposts. They offered us new open-ended contracts but for a different job. We are no longer lecturers but *collaboratori linguistici*, linguistic collaborators, on worse wages and conditions than before," Mr Petrie said. In 1996 14 lecturers in Salerno were fired for refusing to sign new contracts. The second sentence declared that the lecturers had been discriminated against and were entitled to back pay including arrears of pension and social security contributions.

A year ago, the European Commission decided to bring a case against Italy before the European Court of Justice regarding the acquired rights of the lecturers. In September, the Commissioner for Employment and Social Affairs, Pádraig Flynn, warned Italy that if "swift and comprehensive action" was not taken to bring foreign lecturers' contracts into line with European law "the Commission would not hesitate to proceed with legal action".

"To placate Brussels, the Ministry for Universities pre-

sented a letter sent to all rectors urging them to fall into line. Yet in a separate note to state lawyers last month, it said the European Commission was well disposed towards 'definitively closing the case' or in layman's terms, dropping it," said Mr Petrie.

However, it appears that the Commission has no intention of letting things slip and at a 2 December meeting it agreed to continue legal proceedings.

While Mr Petrie and his 400-odd followers hope a European solution will guarantee their status and conditions, other

foreign lecturers are battling through the Italian union system. "It's really getting out of hand," said John Gilbert, a New Yorker teaching in Florence and a member of CGIL, Italy's largest trade union. "University after university is resorting to bully tactics. They put lecturers in a position where if they want their legally won rights to be respected they have to accept that another colleague may lose his job through 'restructuring'. The overall losers are not only we lecturers but also our students," he said.

Kosovo fighters at mass funeral

BY PAUL WOOD

THE TROUBLED Serbian province of Kosovo saw more violence yesterday even as thousands of mourners turned out for the funeral of 36 ethnic Albanians killed in a border clash with the security forces.

The burials came at the end of a week of violence, which has claimed the lives of at least 46 people. In the latest clash yesterday, Serbian sources said that two ethnic Albanians were wounded and four arrested after firing on a police patrol from a passing car.

About one thousand fighters of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) were among the several thousand ethnic Albanian mourners who went to the tiny village of Poljanec for the funeral. The authorities said the men shot were KLA members trying to smuggle weapons into the province. Soon after that incident, six young Serbs were shot dead in a bar in the western city of Pec, and the Serbian deputy mayor of Kosovo Polje was killed.

Serbs in Kosovo yesterday demanded the return of the security forces withdrawn under the threat of Nato air strikes in October, to protect them. They ended three days of protest in the capital, Pristina, after an announcement that the Serbian Interior Minister would visit later today to hear their demands.

Western diplomats largely blame the rebel KLA, not the Serbs, for the increased tension in Kosovo. One official said it was clear the KLA had been moving steadily to take advantage of the Serbian withdrawal made under threat of Nato air strikes.

Matador legend dies, aged 66

SPAIN WAS in mourning yesterday for Antonio Ordóñez, one of the last great matadors of bullfighting's golden age of the 1950s and 1960s, a friend of Orson Welles and an inspiration for Ernest Hemingway. Spanish newspapers gave front-page coverage to Ordóñez's death on Saturday. One, *La Razón*, relegated Clinton's impeachment to the foot of the page in favour of a sepiá photo

BY ELIZABETH NASH
in Madrid

of their hero in his suit of lights. Government ministers, the Peruvian writer Mario Vargas Llosa and Spain's grandest grandee, the Duchess of Alba, were among hundreds who paid their respects at Seville town hall, where his body was laid in state yesterday. The Duchess's daughter married

Ordóñez's grandson, the matador Francisco Rivera Ordóñez, in October in a ceremony broadcast live on state television and billed as the social event of the year.

Despite countless gorings and 27 serious injuries in nearly 30 years, it was cancer that killed Ordóñez at the age of 66. Born in Ronda in 1932, he was the son of a bullfighter, Nino de la Palma, who was the hero of

Hemingway's novel *The Sun Also Rises*. When Ordóñez met the writer, he asked: "Am I as good as my father?" Hemingway replied: "You're better." Ronda declared three days of official mourning, and black-draped flags flew at half-mast. Ordóñez is to be cremated today and his ashes scattered on the sand of Ronda bullring, the cradle of Spanish bullfighting. *Obituary, Review, page 6*



Ordóñez: Countless gorings and 27 serious injuries

Islamists poised to take over in Turkey

TURKEY'S PRIME minister designate, Bulent Ecevit, warned yesterday that his failure to form a government would probably return the Islamist opposition to power.

Mr Ecevit acknowledged on Saturday that he had been unable to put together a coalition since the fall of the conservative-led government last month amid accusations of corruption. He predicted that the collapse of his talks with bickering parliamentary rivals

BY STEVE BRYANT
in Ankara

could bring back Islamists who were forced out of power 18 months ago by the military. Mr Ecevit, whose talks excluded parliament's largest group, the Muslim-oriented Virtue Party, said: "An interim government, most probably involving Virtue, will be formed."

Mr Ecevit, a secularist who regards Virtue's loyalty to Turkey's constitution as deeply

suspect, yesterday said he would hand back the mandate to form a government to President Suleyman Demirel today.

Mr Demirel must now appoint someone else to form Turkey's sixth government since 1995. Any administration would probably only govern until April, when early elections are scheduled.

Virtue is the successor to the Welfare Party outlawed in January for attempting to subvert the constitution. (*Reuters*)

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Sofia mafia boss killed

ONE OF the reputed leaders of the Bulgarian mafia was gunned down early yesterday at a villa near the capital, Sofia, police reported.

Ivo Karamanski, 39, had joined a party when a quarrel among guests ended in a shootout, police said. Mr Karamanski and his bodyguard died at the scene. Two other guests were wounded. Police later arrested a 33-year-old man.

Mr Karamanski, a former national rowing champion, ran a prosperous insurance company. In 1986 he was sentenced to two years in jail for fraud. He was believed to be a key figure in Bulgaria's underworld.

Despite his reputation, Mr Karamanski maintained good connections with police and judiciary officials. He once celebrated release from detention by having a cup of coffee in public with the state prosecutor. He was among the founders of criminal groups set up and controlled by former athletes. In the nine years since Bulgaria threw off Communist rule, many former sports stars have gone from being legitimate bodyguards to operating shady "security" services. (*AP*)

IN BRIEF

'Bin Laden aide' sent to the US

A SUSPECTED senior aide of Osama bin Laden, the Saudi millionaire accused of organising the bombings at US embassies in East Africa this summer, was turned over to American officials at Munich airport last night for extradition to the US. A spokesman for the Bavarian Justice Ministry said Mamdouh Mahmud Salim was taken from Stadelheim prison in Munich to the airport and handed over to the Americans.

Israel freezes West Bank transfer

THE ISRAELI Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, won cabinet agreement yesterday for the suspension of peace moves with the Palestinians, setting the scene for a showdown in parliament. There was one abstention to a proposal to freeze the hand-over of West Bank land outlined in the United States-brokered Wye River accord.

Prince accuses 'captive' women

TEN SERVANTS of a Saudi prince, Turki bin Abdel Aziz - a brother of King Fahd - threw a note from their Cairo hotel window, saying they were being held captive. Yesterday eight of the Filipino women were arrested after the prince accused them of theft. They said the prince's allegation was provoked by their complaints.

Tent fire kills 165 buffaloes

A TOTAL of 165 buffaloes and four horses were killed when an electric short circuit set ablaze a grass tent built by nomads in Punjab state, 185 miles north of Delhi. The animals belonged to a man of the Gujjar tribe, which lives mainly in forests. The animals were all charred to death.

JOHN WALSH

'Madam,' I replied coldly, 'Aladdin is about as Christmassy as the Sphinx'

IN THE MONDAY REVIEW PAGE 5



150 من الالمن

سكزا من الراحل



Thai performers staging a 'Light of Asia' show during the closing ceremony of the international Asian Games in Bangkok yesterday AP

Show trial begins of China's top dissident

THE LEADING Chinese dissident still active on the mainland was scheduled for trial this morning in the heavily guarded Peking Number 1 Intermediate People's Court, one day after a labour activist who had served three years in a labour camp was unexpectedly paroled and exited.

Human rights activists branded the timing of Liu Ni-anchun's release as an attempt by Peking to deflect international criticism from its biggest crackdown in three years.

As 50-year-old Mr Liu and his family were bundled on to a North West Airlines flight to the United States yesterday morning, the latest victim of the suppression, Xu Wenli, was preparing for today's court appearance. Notice of the trial was given to Mr Xu's family only on Friday, leaving no time for the court-appointed lawyer to organise his defence.

This year, 55-year-old Mr Xu has become the elder mentor and focus for a disparate group of activists across China, many of whom have been involved in trying to register an independent China Democracy Party. Like two other activists whose brief trials were held last week, Mr Xu will plead not guilty to charges of inciting subversion, but is bound to be convicted. The maximum penalty for the offence is life imprisonment, although no sentences have yet been announced.

In the late Seventies, Mr Xu was a Democracy Wall activist and has already spent 12 years in prison, mostly in solitary confinement.

As he became more outspoken over the course of this year, Mr Xu was taken in for questioning many times but, until his arrest on 30 November, had been released within hours or days.

In particular, Tony Blair was embarrassed during his October visit to the mainland when Mr Xu was detained briefly for questioning, and British aides hurriedly raised the matter with their Chinese hosts.

The current crackdown on dissidents has left European Union governments on the defensive about their optimistic claims earlier this year that "constructive engagement" with China was helping to secure significant improvements in human rights.

The EU this spring controversially abandoned its annual attempt to censure China at the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva.

The parole on medical grounds and exile of Mr Liu follows similar treatment since late 1997 for two other high-profile dissidents, Wang Dan and Wei Jingsheng. China now seems willing to release leading dissidents only if they immediately go into exile.

Mr Liu was arrested in 1995, when Peking clamped down on labour activists. The following year, his wife learnt he had been sentenced without trial to three years' "re-education through labour" in north-east China. That was subsequently extended by a year. As Mr Liu's health deteriorated, his wife, Chu Hailan, campaigned to bring his case to the attention of the outside world.

Mr Xu's wife, He Xintong, has been similarly fearless, also putting herself at risk.

Ding dong! Time for Christmas baksheesh

CITY LIFE
DELHI

ON MY FRONT door in Nizamuddin, I have just hung up a huge red and green wreath, made from dried chilli peppers, to spice up my holiday mood and to discourage a marauding monkey who has been mooching around our neighbourhood.

He won't nibble on these Christmas goodies more than once, that's for sure.

Christmas Day is a national holiday in India when all offices shut, and Christmas Eve is one of the biggest nights for middle-class families to dine out, topped only by New Year's Eve.

Many Indians look forward to a Christmas bonus and Christmas break.

While politically correct friends send me their family photos stamped, inoffensively, "Season's Greetings" and the New Agers command me by e-mail to "Make it a peaceful Winter Solstice, man", I am mired in Christmas chaos here in the Indian capital.

Cultural fusion often sparks confusion, and this year we have the Islamic holy month of Ramadan coinciding with Chanukah, Christmas and the birthday of the 10th Sikh Guru, Gobind Singh.

To complicate matters even further, more than 10,000 bridegrooms, mounted on white steeds and each preceded by a brass band and a gaggle of relatives, hit the streets last week when the astrological alignment of the stars was declared especially auspicious for weddings.

But not to worry. Celebrating is what the denizens of Delhi do best.

The colder it is outside, the hotter the entertainment gets, and the mercury here has dropped to a chilly 6C.

Festive fairy lights sparkle in the hedges, whisky drinkers warm their hands around charcoal braziers and loud-speakers crackle at maximum volume.

Shahbaz, the melancholy eunuch, is sporting imported fluorescent green eyeshadow to make a bigger impact at the wedding parties he stalks.

Because of so much winter fog, the hira entertainer is now too hoarse to sing out blessings for cash. "What to do?" he shrugs. "My dancing is still there. And I thank Allah for this Ramadan fast. The nights come much quicker than in summer."

With two other hijras, who resemble pantomime dames on the skids, Shahbaz huddles in an open rickshaw and heads towards a wedding reception down the road.

The cloth sides of the shamiana, done up like an ersatz Taj Mahal, seem to

perity. Lights and tinsel glitter at the markets, punctuated by paper star lanterns fashioned with a pop-up nativity scene.

These Christmas sentiments pre-date any nostalgia for the plum cakes and plummy voices of the British Raj, and so many acquired customs make a curious mix.

Local Christians believe the Apostle Thomas rowed ashore in Madras. When the Jesuit missionary St Francis Xavier arrived in the 16th century, there already was a long-established church in India. Today, most of the Indian elite know every carol by heart after childhoods spent in English-language boarding schools run by Christian clergy. Satellite television whips up the frenzy even further.

Such enthusiasm may seem odd, given that only about 2 per cent of Indians are Christians, but the birthday of Jesus is just one more reason for a party alongside these 25 million believers.

The Sivananda Yoga Vedanta Nataraja Centre, for instance, holds an annual Bible reading, Christmas feast and gift exchange for all its members and keeps room on the eclectic altar of idols for Christian icons.

The centre believes in pluralism - the more gods the merrier. Emanuel Bakshe, a Christian convert, sets up a tiny manger scene every year and never leaves out three odd figures. Mingled with the wise men and shepherds are a plastic Santa, a small rubber Mahatma Gandhi with silver glitter on his loincloth, like a miniature Indira Gandhi, like Cruella De Vil in a sari.

Sometimes, the unfamiliar symbolism goes awry. I spied an extravagant wreath of bogus pine boughs that featured an especially grisly crucifix - all done up with a red satin bow that exactly matched the colour of the blood droplets.

But whether it's a "Merry Christmas" or even a "Happy Krishna", I know every minor acquaintance in Delhi will phone me on Christmas Day to wish me well.

JAN MCGIRK



A Christmas tree spreads the word in Delhi

Barbados prepares to ditch the Queen and elect a president

BARBADOS IS preparing to ditch the Queen as head of state and become a republic.

The Caribbean island, home to 250,000 people in a territory of 20 miles by 14 miles, would follow the neighbouring former British colonies of Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago and Dominica if it accepted the recommendations of a new constitutional report. Sir Henry

Forde, the former foreign minister, was appointed by the Barbadian government to head a constitutional commission.

He has delivered a 136-page report, which argues that Barbados should remain in the Commonwealth, but elect its own non-executive president to serve for a seven-year term.

The report proposed that the president, who should be at least 40 years old and a Barbadian, be chosen by an electoral college made up of the speaker of the House of Assembly, 14 MPs and 10 senators.

Sir Henry said his recommendations reflected "a sense of maturity on the part of Barbados that it can function at the highest level".

Sir Henry's report, which has been submitted to Parliament, follows two years of consultation, which took evidence from Barbadians in Britain and North America as well as on the island itself.

Barbados enjoys a degree of economic and political stability which, combined with its natural and climatic charms, ensures that it remains a first-choice tourist destination.

Even though the tourist industry has become the mainstay of the economy and the island's biggest foreign currency earner, Barbados has not developed a dependency culture and Sir Henry paid tribute to the self-reliance of the islanders.

Barbados was capable of properly managing all aspects of its national affairs, he insisted.

"We have had the experience of a succession of native governors, all but one of whom have been local Barbadians, and they have discharged their duties with impartiality and decorum and reflected the people's highest values and aspirations," he said last week.

Sir Henry revealed that most of the Barbadians interviewed felt strongly that the island should do away with the British Privy Council as the court of last appeal. He said the court could be replaced by a Caribbean court of appeals or a Barbadian court if that could not be set up within "a reasonable time".

Barbados gained independence in 1966 after 350 years as a British colony.

Mortgages

NOTICE OF INTEREST RATE VARIATION

The following interest rates for mortgages provided by Banking Direct, a Division of Bank of Scotland, will apply with effect from 4th January 1999 for both new and existing borrowers.

Banking Direct Mortgage Rate (Variable)	7.69% per annum.
Centrebank Mortgage Rate (Variable)	7.69% per annum.
Stabilised Charging Rate	7.99% per annum.
Adaptable Mortgage Plan Charging Rate	7.85% per annum.
Banking Direct Mortgage Rate Plus (Variable)	8.19% per annum.
Centrebank Mortgage Rate Plus (Variable)	8.19% per annum.
Home Loan Rate	7.69% per annum.

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Rebels overrun diamond capital

BY ALLIEU IBRAHIM KAMARA in Freetown, Sierra Leone

REBELS OVERRAN the diamond capital of Koidu in the east of Sierra Leone on Saturday when West African and allied forces withdrew after fierce fighting, survivors and aid workers said on Sunday.

In Freetown, the West African Ecomog troops told people to leave the Lumley beach resort on Sunday as artillery fire could be heard in the distance, witnesses said.

The rebels launched their attack on Koidu on Wednesday, but were initially beaten back by the Nigerian-led Ecomog troops supported by Kamajor traditional hunters.

"The battle continued until early yesterday when the Ecomog troops and Kamajors pulled back to the outskirts of the town," Alpha Jalloh, 45, a diamond miner, told reporters in Freetown. He was shot in the leg in the fighting and was taken to the capital with other wounded by military helicopter.

Ecomog officers said they withdrew to limit civilian casualties. "We are giving the civilians a few days to leave the town, then we will strike and crush the rebels," an officer said.

Survivors in Freetown told of bodies lying in the streets. Aid workers said thousands of civilians had fled Koidu. (Reuters)

CHRISTOPHER McEWEN, MANAGING DIRECTOR, TENDERING CONSTRUCTION, NORTH EAST ESSEX.

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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Fleming denies Commerzbank bid

ROBERT FLEMING, one of the UK's last remaining independent investment banks, yesterday moved to squash rumours that it had rejected a £2bn offer from Commerzbank because of opposition to a takeover from its founding family.

Weekend reports suggested that Commerzbank tabled a £2.2-share bid for Robert Fleming Group, nearly three times its current market value. In September, however, the reports said the bid was blocked by the Fleming family, which holds a 30 per cent stake.

The bank has also been linked in recent weeks with ABN Amro, JP Morgan and Paribas. A spokesman for Robert Fleming said: "We have had no contact at all with Commerzbank. There has been no bid and no talks. We are not up for sale."

Champagne sales set to fizzle



CONSUMPTION OF champagne is set to rise by a fifth next year as revellers celebrate the end of the millennium. According to Datamonitor, the market research group, demand for champagne is set to jump by 22 per cent in the UK, Germany, France and the US in 1999, with sales of sparkling wine also rising sharply.

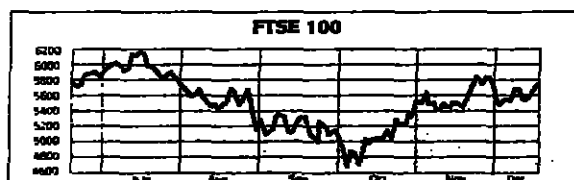
The report raises the prospect of a champagne shortage, with demand possibly exceeding the 320 million bottles which are available around the world. By comparison, however, growth in the demand for beer and next year wine is expected to be relatively modest.

Brand development link-up

THE IDENTICA PARTNERSHIP, the brand development group, is to merge with Tango Design, part of Bartle Bogle Hegarty, the advertising group, in order to concentrate on projecting companies' brands inside shops. The place where consumers buy products – the so-called point of engagement – has traditionally been neglected by advertisers. In the US, however, advertisers spend over \$13bn every year promoting brands at the point of engagement.

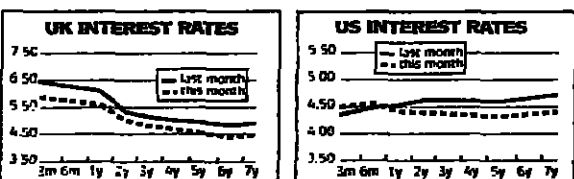
Identica, founded in 1995 by Michael Peters, has £7m turnover and a client base that includes Seagram, Unilever, One2, One and Gillette.

STOCK MARKETS



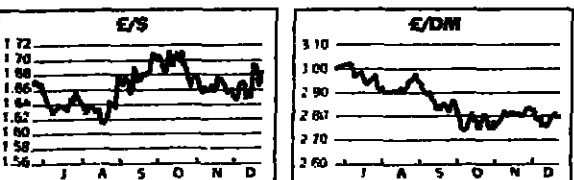
Index	Close	Wk's ch	Wk's % ch	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yr yield (%)
FTSE 100	5741.90	200.20	3.61	6183.7	4599.2	...
FTSE 250	4711.20	-25.70	-0.54	5070.9	4247.6	...
FTSE 350	2703.60	77.10	2.94	2969.1	2210.4	...
FTSE All Share	2607.39	71.12	2.80	2886.52	2143.53	...
FTSE SmallCap	2018.00	3.40	0.17	2793.8	1834.4	...
FTSE Fledgling	1121.80	-1.80	-0.16	1517.1	1046.2	0.004
FTSE AIM	783.40	-6.70	-0.84	1146.9	761.3	0.002
FTSE EBL00 100	935.07	...	...	...	...	...
Dow Jones	8903.63	81.87	0.93	9380.2	7400.3	1.681
Nikkei	14194.29	-211.35	-1.47	17352.95	12787.9	1.032
Hang Seng	10226.23	274.23	2.76	11826.16	6544.79	3.046
Dax	4629.23	93.03	2.05	6217.83	3839.71	1.92

INTEREST RATES



Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	2 year	3 year	10 year	15 year	30 year
UK	5.38	-1.34	5.74	-2.01	4.43	-1.86	4.30	-1.94
US	5.23	-0.67	5.00	-1.03	4.58	-1.01	5.01	...
Japan	0.49	-0.25	0.54	-0.18	1.47	-0.44	2.16	-0.38
Germany	3.32	-0.43	3.18	-0.86	3.83	-1.44	4.71	-1.15

CURRENCIES



Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	2 year	3 year	10 year	15 year	30 year
US\$	1.6799	-1.19	1.6451	...	...	...	...	...
£	2.7955	+1.64p	2.9743	...	...	...	...	...
¥	194.17	-92.31	215.94	...	...	...	...	...
€	100.70	+0.30	104.10	...	...	...	...	...

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Chg	Wk's ch	Wk's % ch	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yr yield (%)
Brent Oil (\$)	9.43	0.25	2.71	...	...	...
Gold (\$)	289.05	-1.80	-0.62	...	...	...
Silver (\$)	4.94	0.10	2.01	...	...	...

TOURIST RATES

Country	Rate	Country	Rate
Australia (\$)	2.6009	Mexican (nuevo peso)	15.23
Austria (schillings)	18.96	Netherlands (guilders)	3.0389
Belgium (francs)	55.71	New Zealand (\$)	3.0839
Canada (\$)	2.5159	Norway (krone)	12.55
Cyprus (pounds)	0.7970	Portugal (escudos)	275.36
Denmark (krone)	10.32	Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.1363
Finland (markka)	8.2645	Singapore (\$)	2.6487
France (francs)	8.9598	Spain (pesetas)	229.30
Germany (marks)	2.7098	South Africa (rand)	9.6152
Greece (drachma)	454.01	Sweden (krone)	13.10
Hong Kong (\$)	12.58	Switzerland (francs)	2.1923
Ireland (pounds)	1.0850	Thailand (bahts)	56.25
India (rupees)	66.33	Turkey (liras)	497979
Israel (shekels)	6.4618	USA (\$)	1.6364
Italy (lira)	2.685		
Japan (yen)	189.03		
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.1957		
Malta (lira)	0.6076		

Source: Thomas Cook

Australian group wins NPI auction with £2.7bn deal

AMP, the Australian insurance group, has clinched victory in the battle to buy NPI, the mutual life insurer, in a deal which values the society at £2.7bn and opens the way for policyholders to receive cash windfalls of up to £800 each.

AMP yesterday confirmed it had beaten off stiff competition from other life insurers to win the auction for NPI, which was forced by financial weakness to put itself up for sale at the beginning of October.

Under the offer, NPI's 600,000 policyholders will receive a cash payout of at least £300 each. Among them, over 440,000 who

BY ANDREW VERITY

hold with-profits policies will receive a further cash payout averaging £477. Policyholders will receive further unspecified sums in higher bonuses over the coming years.

The offer will be subject to a poll of qualifying members to be held next spring. NPI said it was unlikely that windfalls would be sent out before late summer.

The Australian group beat off CGU and Britannic, two UK insurers, in the final stage of the race for the insurer after about 15 rival companies expressed an initial interest.

If the deal is approved, NPI will cease to exist as a mutual life office and become a subsidiary of Pearl, the mass market UK life insurer owned by AMP. Alastair Lyons, the chief executive of NPI, will retain his post and has been offered a seat on the British board of AMP.

George Trumbull, chief executive of AMP, said the deal would result in some redundancies because of overlaps with Henderson, the investment manager which AMP bought earlier this year. However, he said these would amount to less than 10 per cent of NPI's 2,200 staff "in the short term".

He added AMP was unlikely to make any further UK acquisitions in the short term. "We are a big python that has just swallowed a bull and we need to stop and digest it."

AMP will in effect pay just £510m in new money for NPI. The rest of the £2.7bn figure consists of £1.4bn in assets from NPI's estate – a sum already owned by NPI's policyholders – and a facility of £800m to bolster the financial strength of NPI's life fund, one of the weakest in the life insurance sector.

Yesterday's announcement marks the end of a two-year

courtship of NPI by the Australian insurer, which first approached the group in early 1997 after losing to Prudential in a similar battle for Scottish Amicable. Alastair Lyons initially resisted AMP's advances and declared that converting to a plc would make policyholders "a means to an end, not an end in themselves". However, the insurer was forced by a combination of financial weakness and turbulent stock markets to start a competitive auction in October. Swiss Life, one of four insurers to make it through to the due diligence stage,

dropped out in the last three weeks after learning of the scale of funds required to boost NPI's financial strength.

The deal is much less expensive for AMP than it would have been for a foreign office such as Swiss Life, because AMP already owns a UK life insurer. AMP can use the assets of Pearl's life fund to assign the £800m needed to return NPI to financial health.

Ned Cazalet, a senior life insurance consultant, said the windfalls were small comfort to policyholders, given the low bonuses paid on NPI policies in recent years.



The \$9m purchase of two vaccines against nicotine and cocaine could give Cantab access to potentially huge markets. Joe O'Shaughnessy

Cantab set to buy anti-smoking drug

CANTAB PHARMACEUTICALS, the drug development company, will today offer hope to millions of smokers and drug addicts with the \$9m (£5.5m) purchase of two vaccines against nicotine and cocaine.

Cantab is set to reveal that it is buying the two drugs, currently in clinical trials in the US, from the American biotechnology firm ImmunoLogic.

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

The acquisition will be funded through the issue of around two million Cantab shares at a slight premium to Friday's closing share price of 202.5p, leaving ImmunoLogic with nearly 6 per cent of the UK group.

The deal will give Cantab, which has a number of other

vaccines in its pipeline, access to two potentially huge markets. Recent research shows that there are 50 million daily smokers in the US alone, 17 million of whom attempt to quit smoking each year. More than \$360m is spent annually on prescription and over-the-counter drugs by people trying to give up nicotine in the US.

The cocaine vaccine will target the millions of heavy users of the drug. In the US, more than two million people use cocaine on a regular basis and 900,000 of them seek treatment each year.

The vaccines are designed to generate antibodies that neutralise the effects of the two substances. Experts believe they could have an edge over conventional treatments,

which have a high relapse rate. Cantab has also agreed to pay ImmunoLogic a further \$11m if the two vaccines successfully complete Phase II clinical trials – the intermediate stage of drugs testing. In return, ImmunoLogic will transfer \$6m in cash to Cantab to fund the development of the two compounds until the end of the year 2000.

According to KPMG, it could take until the middle of next year before confidence returns. Mike Stevens, the firm's head of management buyout services, said: "Larger, more heavily leveraged deals and those involving businesses in vulnerable sectors such as retailing or exporting have been particularly difficult to finance. It may be some time before the market starts accelerating again."

During the final quarter, the average size of buyouts has fallen to £25m from £38m in the previous three months. This reflects the lack of large buyouts which have dominated the venture capital industry in the past year.

Despite the downturn, 1998 has still been a record year. A total of £11.8bn has been spent on buyouts in the past 12 months, an increase of almost 45 per cent from the previous record of £8.2bn, set in 1997.

Nevertheless, the situation has put pressure on large venture capital groups, most of which have raised huge funds to pursue large deals.

"For the time being the money is stuck on deposit, earning ever-declining rates of interest," said Mr Stevens. "Either the big private equity houses must wait for the banks to re-enter the market or they must accept deals which involve a relatively high component of equity and less gearing. Either way, the returns they have projected over the next two or three years will have to be revisited."

In the past three months the largest deal was Charterhouse Development Capital's acquisition of Madame Tussaud's from Pearson, the media group, for £435m. The deal was unusual because Charterhouse used a large chunk of its own equity to fund. The venture capital group plans to refinance the business when the debt markets improve.

Deflation 'to hit in 2002'

BRITAIN FACES the prospect of negative inflation within four years – the first period of falling prices in more than half a century – according to a leading economic think-tank.

In a gloomy report, the Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR) predicts that inflation in the UK will fall to minus 0.2 per cent in the year 2002 after slowing to 0.2 per cent in 2001.

The fall in prices – also known as deflation – will be accompanied by a rise in unemployment of more than 600,000 over the next three years, while interest rates will fall to as low as 2.4 per cent.

The CEBR has revised its forecasts following signs of weakening consumer confidence and figures showing that companies are sitting on an unexpectedly large amount of excess stock.

Companies will cut prices to sell off excess stock just as demand is weakening, while falling oil and commodity prices will add to the downward pressure on inflation, the CEBR says. That is likely to result in lower pay rises.

Douglas McWilliams, chief executive of the CEBR, said: "Inflation took off in the 1970s

BY ANDREW VERITY

on the back of inflationary wage increases and rising oil and commodity prices. Now all these factors are going into reverse, and as a result inflation is likely to disappear.

"This will be a new world for most people working today, who have spent their entire working lives in an inflationary environment. We will no longer be able to think in terms of annual rounds of wage and price increases."

The CEBR predicts a gradual fall in base rates from 7.2 per cent this year to 5.3 per cent next year, 4.2 per cent in 2000, 2.8 per cent in 2001 and 2.4 per cent in 2002. It warns that the economy is set to shrink slightly: real gross domestic product growth will fall from 2.4 per cent in 1998 to minus 0.1 per cent next year before returning to growth of 2.3 per cent by 2002.

Technically the forecast of negative inflation applies only to 2002, but the CEBR predicts that the phenomenon of deflation may persist beyond then.

The fall in prices would be the first since the 1940s. The lowest rate of UK inflation in the past four decades was in 1969, when prices rose 0.6 per cent.

MEPC director left with payoff of £6m

MEPC, the property giant, is expected to come under intense scrutiny from its shareholders this week after revealing that a former director has received a payoff of almost £6m.

David Gruber, the former chief executive of MEPC's businesses in the United States, was paid £5.2m as a bonus for successfully negotiating the sale of the company's US property portfolio. In addition, he also received £769,000 in compensation for loss of office. Mr Gruber, who left the company at the end of September, was on a two-year rolling contract.

The payoff, revealed in MEPC's annual report which was posted on Friday evening, is likely to trigger some uncomfortable questions for Sir John Egan, the chairman, and chief executive James Tuckey, about the company's corporate governance procedures.

MEPC put its US portfolio up for sale in September 1997 after deciding to concentrate on its UK businesses in an attempt to reverse its flagging share price performance.

It put Mr Gruber in charge of the process and offered him a bonus linked to the amount he raised from the sale, with special rewards if he could extract

BY PETER THAL LARSEN



James Tuckey: Facing uncomfortable questions

a price above the book value of the properties.

The portfolio was eventually sold earlier this year for \$1.3bn (£774m), some £50m more than book value. As a result of his success, Mr Gruber's payoff rose sharply.

A spokesman for MEPC stressed that the payout was a reward for success rather than failure. "This was a contractual arrangement at the time of the decision to sell and was related to the surplus above book value of £50m," he said.

Nevertheless, shareholders are likely to be surprised at a size of the incentive and the fact that it was not capped at a particular level.

MEPC is no stranger to shareholder unrest. Eighteen months ago, dismayed by the group's flagging share price performance, investors explored the possibility of encouraging one of its rivals to mount a bid.

Mr Tuckey survived by executing a sharp change in strategy, deciding to sell off the group's US and Australian portfolios. The bulk of the Australian properties have now also been sold, although they fetched less than book value.

Despite the change in tack, however, and the decision to return a large chunk of the proceeds of the sale to shareholders, MEPC's share price has continued to head south. It recently hit a 12-month low of 373p – almost 40 per cent below its peak.

However, MEPC's directors are understood to be relaxed about the latest revelation, believing that shareholders will accept the size of the payout when the details of Mr Gruber's contract are explained to them.

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Int	Stock	Price	Vol	High	Low	Open	Close	Int	Stock	Price	Vol	High	Low	Open	Close
126	Cummins	155.0	0	155.0	152.0	153.0	153.0	127	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
127	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	128	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
129	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	130	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
131	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	132	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
133	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	134	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
135	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	136	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
137	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	138	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
139	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	140	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
141	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	142	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
143	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	144	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
145	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	146	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
147	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	148	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
149	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	150	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
151	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	152	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
153	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	154	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
155	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	156	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
157	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	158	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
159	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	160	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
161	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	162	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
163	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	164	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
165	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	166	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
167	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	168	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
169	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	170	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
171	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	172	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
173	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	174	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
175	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	176	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
177	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	178	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
179	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	180	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
181	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	182	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
183	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	184	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
185	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	186	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
187	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	188	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
189	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	190	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
191	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	192	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
193	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	194	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
195	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	196	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
197	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	198	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
199	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	200	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
201	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	202	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
203	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	204	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
205	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	206	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
207	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	208	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
209	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	210	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
211	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	212	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
213	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	214	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
215	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	216	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
217	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	218	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
219	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	220	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
221	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	222	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
223	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	224	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
225	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	226	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
227	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	228	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
229	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	230	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
231	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	232	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
233	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	234	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
235	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	236	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
237	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	238	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
239	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	240	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
241	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	242	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
243	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	244	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
245	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	246	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
247	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	248	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
249	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	250	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
251	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	252	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
253	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	254	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
255	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	256	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
257	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	258	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
259	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	260	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
261	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	262	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
263	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	264	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
265	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	266	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
267	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	268	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
269	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	270	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
271	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	272	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
273	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	274	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
275	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	276	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
277	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	278	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
279	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	280	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
281	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	282	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
283	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	284	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
285	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	286	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
287	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	288	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
289	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	290	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
291	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	292	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
293	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	294	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
295	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	296	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
297	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	298	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
299	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	300	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
301	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	302	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
303	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	304	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
305	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	306	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5	14.5
307	Delta	15.0	0	15.0	14.0	14.5</									

The 20-year bull run is not over yet

STOCK MARKET WEEK



DEREK PAIN

IT'S BEEN a splendid year for blue chips, despite the autumn collapse of confidence, which prompted agonised squeals of despair and the usual array of declarations that the bull run was over and the bears would be left to feast on the bones of the stock market.

Last week Footsie closed at 5,741.9 points, representing a not inconsiderable 600 gain so far this year and thereby preserving the 20-year bull run.

Mind you, the index has not, as yet, lived up to the heady hopes expressed at the start of the year. But a merry festive run - the signs last week were encouraging - could push Footsie to a level which justifies the predictions circulating as 1998 got under way.

Many City experts were convinced Footsie would end the year comfortably above 6,000. They can, even if the seasonal run fails to continue, say with justification they were on the right path. Unfortunately, they could be accused of getting one essential element of investment strategy hopelessly wrong - their timing.

The index crossed 6,000 in April and went on to peak at 6,179 in July. Then it was downhill with a year's low of 4,599.2 hit in October before sanity returned and a revival got under way.

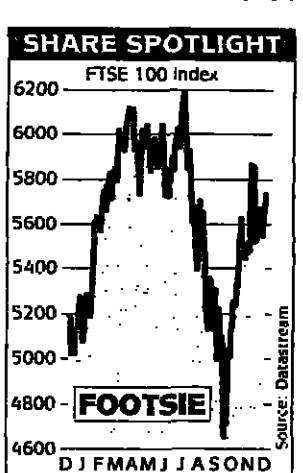
The slump, with the benefit of hindsight, had been waiting to happen. The simmering Russian economic crisis suddenly exploded, prompting Asia's already appreciable problems to be regurgitated with increased force.

British businessmen became more vocal about the strong pound and its impact on company earnings, and profit warnings almost acquired a nuisance value.

The misdemeanours of President Clinton started to rattle New York and then the Long-Term Capital Management hedge fund disaster hit a startled market, provoking wild stories of a deluge of financial disasters and confi-

dent predictions that the world's banking system was on the brink of collapse. As Footsie plunged, those earlier, so confident forecasts were pulled back. Bob Semple and David McBain at BT Alex Brown, for example, revised their year-end estimate to 5,500.

The worries which created the autumn retreat have now



faded. Still the problems of Asia and Russia have not gone away, and sterling, despite a cracking run of base rate cuts, remains resolutely strong. But the banking crisis was a hysterical illusion and it would be surprising if the Clinton affair is not now largely factored into calculations.

Although Footsie has, helped by the sheer weight of investment cash splashing around the system, recovered

much of its equilibrium and forecasts for next year are starting to look increasingly chirpy, the rest of the stock market remains a deeply depressed area.

Second- and third-line shares flattered in the first half of the year, even hitting new highs, but their under-performance has been frightening, and the mid cap, small cap and fledgling constituents look bombed-out.

As Richard Jeffrey at Charterhouse Tilney pointed out recently, the small cap index has under performed the All-Share Index a staggering 40 per cent in the last two years.

The stock market in recent times has become very much a market of two halves - Footsie constituents enjoying all the fun and most of the rest limping along, looking decidedly distressed.

The reasons for the contrasting fortunes have been well documented. The lack of liquidity which hampers dealing in smaller company shares is increased by the reluctance of many institutional investors to venture outside the confines of Footsie. They want to buy and sell shares smoothly and easily and that is not possible with many on the under-card.

It is a chicken and egg situation: until big investors are prepared to take a more active interest in small company shares and liquidity in them consequently improves, they will remain neglected.

There is, of course, plenty of hidden value at today's share valuations. The continuing flow of cash takeover bids, often from overseas, is an indication of the merits lurking on the under-card.

And the growing and rather worrying growth in management buy-outs is another example. It is understandable that managers become irritated by the low - and they believe inappropriate - value placed on the their company and their labours by the stock market. So they unlock value by mounting a cash bid,

usually backed by venture capitalists.

Independent directors and outside advisers are consulted but the managers are in a better position than anyone else to appreciate the true value of their company and it would be surprising if they do not make sure they get a bargain. Certainly they would be foolish to pay even a penny over the top.

So at the end of the day it is the shareholder who is in danger of getting ripped off and as smaller companies are largely the preserve of small, private shareholders it is, as is so often the case in the stock market, the little guy who suffers.

Will the situation improve for the small company next year? Hope springs eternal. Mr Jeffrey says there is "exceptional value embedded in small company ratings" and believes a rally could occur in the middle of next year.

Still, the long-running under-performance by the little 'uns provides fuel for the argument that the fact there are, in effect, two stock markets should be recognised by a two-way split - an international market for, say, the 100 shares in Footsie and the 250 in the mid cap index, and a domestic one for the rest.

Indeed it could be argued that the computerised order book, currently embracing 125 shares and intended eventually to take in the top 350, is laying the foundation for an eventual division.

Clearly the demands of the likes of Glaxo Wellcome, capitalised at £71bn, are far removed from those of the little cider group Merrydown, with an £8.2m valuation.

The requirements of institutional investors and private shareholders are also vastly different. Although there would obviously have to be cross-fertilisation, with big and small investors able to deal in both markets, a dual operation would have much to commend it.

Music sample strikes a note of contention

WHO'S SUING WHOM

JOHN WILLCOCK



Massive Attack: their song 'Black Milk' is the subject of plagiarism allegations

MANFRED MANN (real name Manfred Lubowitz), the popular musician and songwriter who found fame and fortune with his eponymous band in the 1960s, is suing the extremely trendy group Massive Attack for alleged plagiarism.

Mr Mann says that in 1971 he composed a song called 'Tribute', which he then recorded with Manfred Mann's Earth Band.

Then in May this year Virgin issued an album by Massive Attack, *Mezzanine*, which carried a track entitled 'Black Milk'.

Mr Mann says this track is about 128 bars long. His writ claims: "In 100 out of these approximately 128 bars there was incorporated by the Group (Massive Attack), in an identical or in a substantially identical form, a repeated two-bar extract taken from the recording by a process known as digital sampling."

Mr Mann is seeking an injunction to stop further sales of the album, plus damages and costs.

GRANADA and London Weekend Television (LWT) have fallen out with WEA International and Warner Music International Services over two recent films, *Coronation Street: Viva Las Vegas* and a compila-

tion, *Blind Date: Greatest Hits and Unseen Bits*.

The two British TV companies made a deal to allow WEA and Warner to distribute videos of the films. Granada and LWT now claim they have received only £800,000 in advances from the US companies, several hundred thousand pounds less than they are due under the deal. They now want an injunction to stop WEA and Warner from copying and distributing the films.

COCA-COLA and Schweppes went to court last week to force British Telecommunications (BT) to divulge the name and address of a person subscribing to a BT mobile telephone number, a person they suspect of infringing their trademarks.

Under the Data Protection Act, in certain circumstances a service provider, such as BT, can be forced by the courts to divulge the identity of a subscriber to a third party, overriding their rights to client confidentiality.

Last Tuesday the court supported the application, and BT handed over the name and address to the drinks companies, which is continuing its investigations. The name of the person concerned remains confidential.

THE USE of "Chinese walls" by accountants, lawyers, investment banks and other professional firms will have to be re-examined following a landmark ruling in favour of Prince Jefri of Brunei in his case against KPMG.

Prince Jefri, younger brother of the Sultan of Brunei, hired KPMG in 1997 to review his own finances. This year the Brunei Investment Authority (BIA) launched an investigation into the Sultanate's finances, and especially Prince Jefri's affairs.

When the BIA hired KPMG to carry out the review, Prince Jefri applied in the UK courts to stop them, saying their Chi-

nese walls would fail to stop confidential information about him leaking to the BIA.

The law lords found in favour of Prince Jefri, and on Friday published the reasons for their ruling. They criticised KPMG's "ad hoc" construction of a Chinese wall, and laid down ground rules for professional firms to follow in future.

The law lords were particularly worried that the KPMG people working for the Prince who then worked for the BIA came from within the same department. In future, Chinese walls should be used to separate different departments, and these departments should, where possible, be housed in different locations. This should extend to different dining arrangements, according to Lord Millett, who wrote the judgment.

According to one of Prince Jefri's solicitors, Jeremy Cole, a partner with Lovell White Durrant, the judgment will affect "everyone working in the City".

HSBC Midland Bank Interest Rates

Advice of interest rate changes for personal customers from 22 December 1998

Rates for Savers

High Interest Savings Account 60 days notice (Monthly interest option)	Old Rate	New Rate from 22 Dec 98	High Interest Savings Account 60 days notice (Monthly interest option)	Old Rate	New Rate from 22 Dec 98
	Gross	Gross		Gross	Gross
		AER			AER
£100,000 +	6.35%	5.85%	£100,000 +	6.18%	5.70%
£50,000 +	6.05%	5.55%	£50,000 +	5.89%	5.42%
£10,000 +	5.95%	5.45%	£10,000 +	5.80%	5.32%
Up to £10,000	5.75%	5.25%	Up to £10,000	5.61%	5.13%

Midland Instant Access Savings (Annual interest option)	Old Rate	New Rate from 22 Dec 98	Midland Instant Access Savings (Monthly interest option)	Old Rate	New Rate from 22 Dec 98
	Gross	Gross		Gross	Gross
		AER			AER
£50,000 +	5.50%	5.00%	£50,000 +	5.37%	4.89%
£25,000 +	4.65%	4.15%	£25,000 +	4.56%	4.08%
£10,000 +	4.20%	3.70%	£10,000 +	4.13%	3.64%
Up to £10,000	4.00%	3.50%	Up to £10,000	3.93%	3.45%

Deposit Account 7 days notice (No longer sold)	Old Rate	New Rate from 22 Dec 98	Tessa and follow-up Tessa (Annual Tax Free interest)	Old Rate	New Rate from 22 Dec 98
	Gross	Gross		Tax free	AER/Tax free
		AER			
£50,000 +	5.44%	4.95%		6.80%	6.80%
£25,000 +	4.61%	4.12%			
£10,000 +	4.16%	3.67%			
Up to £10,000	3.97%	3.48%			

Bank Accounts

Student Bank Account	Old Rate	New Rate from 22 Dec 98	Midland Bank Account	Old Rate	Rate from 3 Dec 98
	Gross	Gross		Gross	Gross
		AER			AER
	1.49%	1.00%		0.40%	0.25%

16 - 19 Year Old Account	Old Rate	New Rate from 22 Dec 98	Meridian Bank Account	Old Rate	New Rate from 22 Dec 98
	Gross	Gross		Gross	Gross
		AER			AER
	1.74%	1.25%		3.45%	3.21%
			£50,000 +	2.96%	2.48%
			£10,000 +	1.49%	1.00%
			Up to £2,000	0.50%	0.50%

Livacash	Old Rate	New Rate from 22 Dec 98
	Gross	Gross
		AER
	3.93%	3.45%

Secured Borrowing

HomeOwner Reserve	Old Rate	New Rate from 22 Dec 98
	APR	APR
		Annual Rate
	11.80%	11.30%

Base Rate 6.25% effective from 10 December 1998

HSBC is the trading name of Midland Bank plc

Gross: The rate before the deduction of tax, applicable to savings.
AER (Annual Equivalent Rate): A notional rate which illustrates what the gross rate would be if interest was paid and compounded each year.
Tax Free: Tax Free means that interest is not subject to income tax.
All rates are correct as at 22 December 1998 but may vary in the future.

Issued by Midland Bank plc

Midland Bank plc, 27-32 Poultry, London EC2P 2BX.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR DIARY

TODAY - Interims: Peel Holdings. AGMs: Govett Strategic, Jupiter Extra Income, Newcastle United, Reflex, Silver Shield. EGMS: Enstone, Fleming Mercantile Investment Trust, McCarthy & Stone, Medisys, Natural Building. **WEDNESDAY** - Property Partnership. Economies: UK final GDP (Q3), UK balance of payments (Q3).

TUESDAY - Finals: Kelsey Industries. AGMs: Babcock International, CH Bailey. Economies: US Federal Open Market Committee meeting. **WEDNESDAY** - Tokyo markets closed. Interims: Stewart & Wright. AGMs: Enterprise Capital. EGMS: Hillsdown Holdings, Jupiter Geared Capital, Yeoman Investment Trust.

Economies: UK global trade (Oct), UK non-EU trade (Nov), MPC meeting minutes (Dec), US final GDP (Q3), US corporate profits (Q3). **THURSDAY** (Christmas Eve) - London Stock Exchange closes at 12:30. **FRIDAY** - Christmas Day. **MONDAY 28 December** - Bank holiday.

TUESDAY - Nothing scheduled. **WEDNESDAY** - London Stock Exchange closes at 12:30. AGMs: Galaxy Media. EGMS: Fire Indmar, Plasmon. Economies: Nationwide house price survey (Dec), BBA mortgage lending (Nov). **NEW YEAR'S EVE** - London Stock Exchange closed all day. **NEW YEAR'S DAY** - Bank holiday.

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SPORT

Return to France '98: Of the 32 teams that entered last summer's finals only 10 still have the same man in charge.



Faces of the departed: (left to right) Carlos Alberto Parreira, sacked by Saudi Arabia; Cesare Maldini, resigned as Italy coach; Mario Zagallo, sacked by Brazil; and Aimé Jacquet, who has finished his France contract. *Empics/Allsport*

No fun on World Cup merry-go-round

THEY ARRIVE needing one thing above all — time. In a few weeks they discover that this is the one element in short supply and are shown the door. Most have their contracts paid in full but have lost their pride, a commodity more precious than any amount of cash.

Christmas is a traditional time for the sack — but not the one that Santa carries. Six months after the World Cup finals, only 10 — soon to become nine — national coaches of the 32 teams that entered last summer's finals are still in their jobs, a poignant reminder of the fragility of a profession that pays handsome rewards but scant regard for reputations.

While no one was the least surprised when, say, Bulgaria's Hristo Bonev resigned after a woefully poor World Cup campaign, considerable sympathy has to be extended to the coaches of nations such as Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Tunisia and South Korea, all of whom were out of office even before the final game on July 12.

Every finalist's ambition was, of course, to reach round two but 16 had to go. To summarily dismiss the coaches of those countries who had always seemed likely to fall at the first hurdle

BY ANDREW WARSHAW

was little short of scandalous. Getting to the finals was in itself an achievement for such nations and should have been recognised as such by over-demanding national federations.

Former England manager Bobby Robson, himself a victim of football politics at Barcelona, but with a passion for the game that remains undimmed, remembers watching as coach after coach failed to finish the job he had started at France '98.

"It's a fact: your reward for getting to the World Cup finals was to get the sack," Robson said. "The name of the game is to win but my word, it's a thin line. Look at Carlos Alberto Parreira. Four years ago, he was the most important man in world football having won the trophy with Brazil. Two World Cup final matches later, this time in charge of Saudi Arabia, he loses his job after a game in which he has a player sent off against the host nation in front of 80,000 fans."

Parreira's sacking, said Robson, was particularly unfair. "The fact is that Saudi Arabia had done quite well for 70 minutes against France until the dismissal. Then they buckled

and Carlos Alberto is the fall guy. That's unrealistic."

Parreira, who was linked with the vacant South Africa job before it went to a local, Trott Moloto, was not the only fall guy. By the end of France '98, Henryk Kasperczak of Tunisia had gone, along with Cha Bum-kun of South Korea, Bora Milutinovic of Nigeria and Philippe Troussier, who has transferred his allegiance from South Africa to Japan. Later, and more fa-

mously, others were forced out, including Mario Zagallo of Brazil and Bertie Vogts of Germany.

Parreira, unlike some of his colleagues, took it all in his stride. He knew from his time with Brazil the unpredictable nature of being a football manager. He also knew how relentless the pressure could be.

When in the hot seat of one of the most high-profile football jobs in the world, Parreira had to endure a terrible pasting

from the Brazilian press when things went wrong. Going to Saudi Arabia had its own pressures but it was light years away from what he endured in Rio.

"I remember how Graham Taylor was vilified in the English tabloids after England failed to qualify for the 1994 World Cup finals," said Parreira. "That was nothing compared to what can happen in Brazil. They expect all the

country's political ills to be solved through football."

Parreira, like Robson, is now biding his time, as is Vogts, whose miserable reign as national coach of Germany came to a sad and abrupt end in early September.

German managers rarely, if ever, quit. Indeed, there have only ever been six in the last 72 years. So when Vogts announced that he wanted to call it a day to preserve some "human dignity"

and spare his family the kind of intolerable pressure that was being heaped upon him, you knew he meant it.

With several of his senior players privately rebelling against him and headlines such as "Berti, how much longer?" appearing in the national press, Vogts cut his losses and called it quits, the first time any German manager had done so in mid-season.

And yet, he had only lost 12 games as national team coach out of 102. "The way everyone complained, you'd have thought it was only 12 that I had won," said the embittered Vogts, who has been replaced by the experimental and far from convincing pairing of Erich Ribbeck and Uli Stielike.

Other high-profile coaches to pay the price of so-called World Cup failure include Argentina's Daniel Passarella, Sampdoria's first choice before they went for David Platt; Italy's Cesare Maldini, replaced by Dino Zoff; Zagallo, who has given way to the delightfully named Vanderley Luxemburgo; and, most recently, Spain's pragmatic Javier Clemente, who has gone to Real Betis.

Some, it has to be said, stepped down by choice, com-

forted by the knowledge that they performed better than their predecessors: France's Aimé Jacquet, now back in the bosom of the French federation; Norway's Egil Olsen, who has just come out of retirement for the challenge of coaching Valerenga, Chelsea's next Cup-Winners' Cup opponents; and Gipsy Hiddink, who left the Netherlands semi-finalists to take over at Real Madrid and has been replaced by Frank Rijkaard.

Whether by good fortune or good judgement, Glenn Hoddle, so far at least, is one of the 10 who have survived. So is Craig Brown and, somewhat surprisingly, Georges Leekens of Belgium.

Any day now, Chile's Nelson Acosta looks likely to be discarded and become number 23 on the World Cup discard list. Hold on, wasn't it Chile who performed so sublimely against the Italians at France '98 and made more friends than arguably any other team?

Christmas cheer? Don't believe it.

TOMORROW

Glenn Hoddle looks back at England's World Cup

THE PRECARIOUS CAREER OF THE INTERNATIONAL COACH

Of the 32 coaches at the World Cup in France last summer, 22 have now left their posts.

The following is a list of the departures since the start of the World Cup, which ran from 10 June 10 to 12 July.

Argentina Daniel Passarella, resigned and replaced by Marcelo Bielsa.

Brazil Mario Zagallo, sacked and replaced by Vanderley Luxemburgo.

Bulgaria Hristo Bonev, resigned and replaced by Dimitar Dimitrov.

Cameroon Claude Le Roy, end of contract, replaced by Jean Mangan Onguéné.

Colombia Hernan Dario Gomez, end of contract, replaced by Javier Alvarez.

Germany Bertie Vogts, resigned and replaced by Erich Ribbeck.

France Aimé Jacquet, end of contract, replaced by Roger Lemerre.

Iran Jalal Talebi, resigned and replaced by Mansour Pourheidari.

Italy Cesare Maldini, resigned and replaced by Dino Zoff.

Japan Takeshi Okada, resigned and replaced by Philippe Troussier.

Netherlands Gus Hiddink, end of contract replaced by Frank Rijkaard.

Nigeria Bora Milutinovic, end of contract, replaced by Thijs Libregts.

Norway Egil Olsen, resigned and replaced by Nils Johan Semb.

Paraguay Paulo Cesar Carpeggiani, end of contract. Not yet replaced.

Romania Anghel Iordanescu, end of contract, replaced by Victor Piturca.

Saudi Arabia Carlos Alberto Parreira, sacked and replaced by Trott Moloto.

South Africa Philippe Troussier, end of contract, replaced by Trott Moloto.

South Korea Cha Bum-kun, sacked and replaced by Kim Mung-seok.

Spain Javier Clemente sacked and replaced by Jorge Camacho.

Tunisia Henryk Kasperczak, sacked and replaced by Francesco Scoglio.

United States Steve Sampson, resigned and replaced by Bruce Arena.

Yugoslavia Slobodan Santrac, retired and replaced by Milan Zivadinovic.

The 10 coaches remaining in their posts are: Glenn Hoddle (England), Rene Simoes (Jamaica), Manuel Lapuente (Mexico), Henri Michel (Morocco), Craig Brown (Scotland), Georges Leekens (Belgium), Herbert Prohaska (Austria), Bo Johansson (Denmark), Miloslav Blazevic (Croatia) and Nelson Acosta (Chile).

Curley's gamble with his life

Barney Curley
Giving a Little Back
By Nick Townsend
Collins Willow £15.99

BOOK OF THE WEEK

IF A SINGLE word could be found to unravel the enigma that is Barney Curley, it would be faith. In equal measure, his religion (Roman Catholic) and self-belief are the secrets of his success and notoriety and, his family apart, the most important things in a life that has, in its time, turned the traditionally conservative world of horse racing on its head.

Curley born in County Fermanagh, Northern Ireland, in 1939 into a non-racing family, has become one of the most ferocious gamblers of recent times. But there is much more to him than that. His father was ruined by gambling (greyhounds, rather than horses) and young Barney, though interested in betting, was studying to become a Jesuit when he contracted TB and, for a time,

was close to death. When he finally recovered, more than a year later, he decided that the priesthood was not for him and determined to try and make a living by betting, while attempting to avoid his father's fate. Along the way he became manager of three successful showbands, without having any knowledge of showbusiness or pop music.

His early gambling lessons were painful ones, but he learned to watch and read horses and races as well as any trainer, a profession whose ranks he would eventually join. His first coup, which has become part of Irish racing folklore, was landed in 1975 when, without breaking a single rule, he relieved the bookmakers of £200,000 with a hurdler called Yellow Sam. It was a brilliant

ly executed sortie, involving a trusted group of friends and the monopolisation of the only public telephone at Bellestown racecourse (in the days before mobile phones).

Curley first came to prominence outside his native Ireland in 1984, when he successfully raffied his IR£1m home, Middleton House in County Westmeath, and trousered a tidy profit by selling 9,000 tickets at IR£200 each (£175). The event, described by *The Irish Independent* as "The second great mystery of Irish racing after Shergar's disappearance" made news around the world.

Armed with his profit, and after overcoming the minor problem of whether or not the lottery was legal, Bernard Joseph Curley, horse owner/trainer, gambler and estate agent extraordinaire, decided the time was right to try his luck in England.

Success over the water fol-

lowed swiftly, as did controversy, and author Nick Townsend chronicles several other huge gambles (mostly successful) as well as "The Graham Bradley Affair" and Curley's doomed attempt to be the punters' saviour with The Independent Racing Organisation, which attracted just 290 members.

Curley rarely speaks to the media. He has a deserved reputation for being difficult. But Townsend, over many strength-sapping months, has obviously gained his trust and provides us with an illuminating insight of a very private man and his secrets. One celebrated chain of stores originally decided not to carry the book, on the basis that not enough people had heard of Curley. When it appeared in the Irish best-sellers' list shortly after publication, a quick change of mind followed.

Good decision. *Len Gould*

THIS WEEK'S TOP TEN SPORTS BOOKS

- 1 **European Football Yearbook 1998-99**, edited by Mike Hammond (Sports Projects, paperback, £23.95)
- 2 **Bleak and Blue - 22 Years at the Manchester Academy of Football** Farce, Craig Winstanley (Sigma, paperback, £8.95)
- 3 **Addicted**, Tony Adams with Ian Ridley (Collins Willow, hardback, £16.99)
- 4 **Jenny Pitman - The Autobiography** (Partridge, hardback, £16.99)
- 5 **Turning Point**, Sean Fitzpatrick and Duncan Johnstone (Penguin, hardback, £16.99)
- 6 **Elliott's Golf Form 1999**, Keith Elliott (Portway Press, paperback, £20.00)
- 7 **Annuario del Calcio Mondiale 98-99**, Salvatore Lo Presti (SET, hardback, £19.95)
- 8 **Playing at Home**, John Aizlewood (Orion, hardback, £16.95)
- 9 **Blade Runners - Lives in Football**, Gary Armstrong (Halsam Press, hardback, £16.95)
- 10 **Pace-maker**, Glenn McGrath with Daniel Lane (Ironbark, paperback, £14.95)

List compiled by Sportspages, 94-96 Charing Cross Road, London (0171 240 9604) and St Ann's Square, Manchester (0161 832 8530), and www.sportspages.co.uk

United can supplant Juve as favourites

UNITED, WHO struggled to qualify for the knock-out stages, are only mid-table in Serie A and have lost Alessandro Del Piero, their brilliant playmaker-striker for the season, are favourites for the European Cup by virtue of having drawn Olympiakos, the outsiders, in the quarter-finals.

With a training regime designed to bring their squad to peak fitness only in the new year and, free to dip into the transfer market at that point, the side that won the 1996 European Cup and should have accounted for the inferior Borussia Dortmund and Real Madrid in 1997 and this year, should make the semi-finals.

However, unless Juventus have found their stride both domestically and in Europe by that point, the favourites by the semi-final stage will be the winners of the Manchester

SPORTS BETTING

BY IAN DAVIES

United v Internazionale tie which, worryingly for Red Devils fans, may pitch Ronaldo against Jaap Stam.

Bayer Munich will be fancied to beat Kaiserslautern, their Bundesliga compatriots, but Real Madrid, the holders, are no certainties to overcome Dynamo Kiev, although the Ukrainian outfit may be handicapped by playing the tie during their close season.

EUROPEAN CUP

	C	H	A	S	T
Juventus	10-2	5-2	7-3	10-3	11-0
Internazionale	4-1	5-1	8-2	5-2	4-1
Real Madrid	9-2	4-1	5-1	4-1	4-1
Bayer Munich	5-1	4-1	4-1	5-2	11-2
Real Madrid	4-1	6-1	4-1	5-1	5-1
Dynamo Kiev	5-1	5-1	5-1	5-1	5-1
Kaiserslautern	12-1	25-1	12-1	14-1	7-0
Olympiakos	20-1	40-1	25-1	20-1	35-1

Nieberg's clear route to clean-up

Cherry-picking Tigers eat their fill

IT IS ONLY a weak ligament we are talking about here; not a snapped Achilles, or a broken back, or an all-over stress fracture of the body, but a measly centimetre of fibrous connective tissue supporting the muscle structure of Phil Vickery's bull neck. Sadly, for the Kingsholm faithful, this apparently modest orthopaedic complication has left a once virile Gloucester pack in a state of collective emasculation. From unique to emaciated in a matter of weeks.

Vickery's condition, not yet career-threatening but of profound concern to both player and club, goes to the heart – or, rather, the balls – of Gloucester's predicament. Shorn of the raw strength their 22-year-old Cornishman brings to their front row, Gloucester have no set-piece platform worthy of the name. And that means trouble



CHRIS HEWETT

Gloucester 18
Leicester 23

with knobs on. It does not take a scientific mind of Newtonian stature to arrive at the most basic law of rugby physics: namely, that what goes back in the scrum goes out with a whimper.

Bristling with a nap hand of international tight forwards

and a titan of a No 8 in Martin Corry, Leicester inflicted upon the Cherry and Whites a roasting of such hellish proportions that the visiting backs could afford an afternoon off and still pocket the spoils of victory. Three of Tim Stimpson's six penalties came as a direct result of the Tigers' scrummaging superiority. And, while it was possible to listen to a Wagner opera in the time it took England's former full-back to complete his kicking routine, he at least gave the Gloucester heavy brigade ample opportunity to reflect on their inadequacy.

Disturbingly for the Kingsholm infantry, the Vickery-shaped cavalry is not expected to arrive for another five weeks at least. "I can't see Phil playing before February," said Richard Hill, the Gloucester coach. "We need to get him ab-

solutely right before we pick him again, because no one in their right mind takes chances with a neck injury. He's had CT scans, MRI scans, brain scans, you name it, and none of them have revealed any structural damage. But he does have a ligament weakness, and it's a serious problem, especially for a prop. If you have a dodgy ankle ligament, you can strap the ankle. What you can't do is strap a neck.

"Phil is worried about the long-term implications for his career and I don't blame him. He must be thinking: 'Hey, I'm 22 and if I'm not very careful, I could find myself back on the family farm shovelling pig manure.' It's a desperate shame, not least because he has such a big future internationally. He can't even run at the moment because it would jar his neck."

By sharp contrast, Leicester

are far too well endowed to regard any one player as indispensable; having arrived in the Cotswolds without Joel Stranksy, Will Greenwood and Nnamdi Ezulike, they simply shrugged their shoulders and played to the strengths that remained. They even managed to make light of the temporary absence of their outstanding captain, Martin Johnson, who was sin-binned at the end of the first quarter for his frank and forthright contribution to a nasty little flare-up at the coalface.

Gloucester attempted to capitalise, but failed so miserably that Johnson returned from his lonely dressing-room vigil to find his own side three points to the good.

Indeed, there was an air of inevitability about the proceedings, despite Gloucester's second try three minutes into the second half – a carefully

planned strike created by Steve Ojomoh's inspired blind-side feed from the base of an unstable scrum and completed by Mark Maplettoft in the right corner. Although Maplettoft's handsome conversion left Leicester 11-15 down, there was something distinctly false about the deficit: sure enough, Corry and company changed up a gear, pitched camp in the Gloucester half and earned Stimpson enough shots at goal to wrap up the result.

"They're title material," acknowledged Hill, bluntly adding that his own side were quite the opposite. "The Leicester pack is the best in the business at scrum time; they work overtime in that area and have based their whole game around it."

"Not many sides can hold them up front, and if you add to that their consistency, the

fact that they are more capable than any of their rivals of holding their form, then you have to say they are potential champions.

"As for us, Premiership points are almost of secondary importance now. The priority is to crack the secret of maintaining our concentration and commitment throughout the full 80 minutes of a game, something we still find impossible away from home."

"I've been here three years now, and it's time we put this whole away thing behind us. Look at the top sides and you see 15 players with real belief that they will win, no matter how bad things might seem. If you have two or three without that belief, as we do, it spreads like a cancer through the whole side. We need to start believing."

Leicester's levels of belief

are positively Papal and, even at this relatively early stage of the campaign, it is difficult to argue with the Gospel According to Saint Deano.

"The beauty of these players is their perfectionism," he beamed on Saturday evening. "They know the perfect game of rugby is unachievable, but it doesn't stop them trying." For all their flaws at Kingsholm – and they were far from immaculate in many areas – they are well on course for a taste of heaven in May.

Gloucester: Tim Johnson, Maplettoft Conversion; Maplettoft Try; Leinster: Penalties Stimpson 6; Gloucester: C. Corry, B. Johnson (M. Maplettoft, 36), T. Fancourt, R. Tombs (capt), P. Saint-André, S. Morris, J. Sanders (S. Benson, 61), A. Woods, C. Forsey (N. McCarthy, 1-2), A. Dawson (A. Poulles, 63), R. Fidler, M. Cornwell (D. Sims, 63), R. Jones, S. Ojomoh, N. Carter.

Leicester: T. Stimpson, L. Lloyd, S. Potter, P. Howarth, D. Loughrey, G. Murphy, A. Healey, G. Rowntree (D. Jolley, 69), R. Cockerill, D. Garforth, M. Johnson (capt), P. Van Heerden, P. Gussard, M. Corry, N. Back. Referee: N. Williams (Wales).

Bath slump to record fifth defeat

PROFESSIONAL sportsmen adhere to the principle that you make your luck. If that is the case, then right now Bath are making the wrong sort of luck. Their acting captain, Andy Nicol, not the most fortunate of players when it comes to injury, lasted just nine minutes of the bitter defeat against Saracens before joining a growing queue of casualties in the Bath squad.

Suspected medial ligament damage to his left knee – to be confirmed later today – could keep him out for the rest of the season; at best he will be out of action for a few weeks. When the names of Phil de Glanville, out for 10 weeks after an operation on his dislocated shoulder, Mark Regan (two more weeks after concussion), captain Richard Webster (another fortnight) and Jon Preston (four months after surgery on a ruptured Achilles tendon) are added to the equation, anyone would feel entitled to whinge.

But the reigning European champions, while not playing well, are not panicking yet. If the first thing that their coach, Andy Robinson, did was to reach for a can of Bath's sponsors' cider after crashing to an unprecedented fifth league defeat in a row, no one was blaming him.

"You don't mind me turning to alcohol?" he quipped, before settling down to parry the awkward questions. The boos and jeers which had followed Bath off the pitch would still have been echoing in his head and they would have hurt him.

"The fans are entitled to their opinion," acknowledged Robinson between sips. "We deserved it the way we played today." But pain was screwed harshly into the features of the man who shared in some more celebrated records as a player with the once mighty club.

Robinson has more reason than most to bemoan his side's fortunes, but to him they would be mere excuses and he has never resorted to those. "We have to front this up and ask what we are going to do about it," said the former England flanker. "There are a lot of proud people at this club."

And he rejected a suggestion made last week that the soul had gone out of the club. "We are just not playing well," insisted Robinson, who has had supporters advising him in no uncertain terms to resign, "and

BY DAVID LLEWELLYN

Bath 11
Saracens 19

when you are down, and you are losing, things do not go for you. But I am not going to give this up. I am not going to walk out on Bath. I still think there is plenty for us to play for this season and we have the ability."

Mark Evans, Saracens' director of rugby, seemed almost shocked by inept performances from both sides. "This was a shadow of previous Bath sides," he said. "For so long Bath have been in a league of their own. They had an aura about them, but that clearly does not exist any longer. I wonder if it will exist again for anybody."

Robinson insisted that comparison with past Bath sides was a non-starter. "It is time to consign the old, amateur Bath to history where it belongs," he said. "The old Bath was great and to be a part of it was fabulous, but now we are into something else. Our history did not come about through brilliant rugby, it was because we won."

"Winning is the important thing and it's a lot harder these days. The game is in a worldwide market and there are players of outstanding talent from overseas playing for English clubs, which was not possible in the amateur era."

The Bath public, weaned on a diet of incredible success, is finding a new regimen of defeat unpalatable, but Robinson will not be moved that easily; he has given too much to the club. Nor will he venture into the transfer market. Not for him the short-term solution. He has been nurturing youth and is unafraid to blood the youngsters.

"I'll be looking at some young players in the club," said Robinson. "We have plenty of options and a lot of talent coming through." The other clubs may have pulled the plug, but not all the water has gurgled down the plughole yet.

Bath: T. Try, B. Shaw, Penalties Carr 2, Saracens: T. Try, Conversion: Conversion: Penalties Johnson 3, Drop goal: Penalties.

Bath: M. Perry, I. Bateman, K. Maags, J. Gust, C. Adebayo, M. Carr, A. Nicol (capt), S. Huxley, S. D. Hilton (J. Mallett, 73), A. Long, V. Ugochi, S. Bartholomew (S. Surinham, 50), N. Redman, R. Earmshaw (N. Thomas, 50), D. Lyle, E. Peters.

Saracens: G. Johnson, S. Daniel, R. Constance, S. Ravenscroft, R. Wallace, A. Penard, K. Bracken, D. Flanagan (B. Reidy, 72), G. Chute, P. Wallace (B. Reidy, 31-40), P. Jones, D. Greenwood, T. Colker (P. Ogilvy, 68), T. Digne, F. Penard (capt). Referee: A. Rowlett (Wales).

Cardiff will not even know when they can play Llandovery in the Swalec Cup. Building work at the Arms Park delayed Saturday's fourth round tie. Cardiff have offered any mid-



The Saracens captain, Francois Pienaar, breaks loose to ask searching questions of a depleted Bath side at the Recreation Ground on Saturday

Peter Jay

Sweet revenge as the Best men win

DICK BEST, who might have been a slave driver had he not become a rugby coach, announced that he was giving the London Irish squad Christmas Day off. "I'm weakening," he said.

Best was imbued with the festive spirit following the Exiles' rousing victory over Harlequins at Sunbury By 7pm, 8,800 pints had been drunk in the club house bars, and that was just Guinness. A win in the Premiership is always welcome, but beating Quins has almost become one of Best's missions in life.

BY TIM GLOVER

London Irish 20
Harlequins 16

After being dismissed as their coach, Best took the club to an industrial tribunal until Quins settled at the 11th hour. Andy Keast, who was also shown the door at The Stoop, works as Best's assistant at London Irish but is in an unofficial capacity. He is being paid by Quins up to June and until that time cannot be employed by any other club. "I don't receive a penny from London

Irish," Keast said. Thus, on Saturday, he too supped a delicious cocktail called Revenge.

Last season, Quins hit a new low at Sunbury, conceding 60 points. This time round they arrived having won six Premiership matches in a row but were without their player-coach, Zinzan Brooke.

Leading 16-10 midway through the second half, Quins conceded a penalty try for not retreating 10 yards when the Irish were awarded a series of penalties close to their opponents' line.

Despite a shambolic perfor-

mance at the line-out, the Irish deserved their success in front of a crowd of 5,460.

They were far more adventurous and their first half try by Stephen Bachop was quite magnificent. Jarrod Cunningham, fielding a kick near his own line, brilliantly turned defence into attack and the move was sustained by Connor O'Shea in the back row.

"I'm very proud," Best said. "We played with some passion and proved we can be a good side if we can win 50 per cent of the line-outs. The team is starting to gel and it may be the

start of something. This has helped make Christmas almost tolerable."

London Irish will not get much of a break. On Boxing Day they play Richmond at the Madejski Stadium, Richmond, of course, felt compelled to move from the Athletic Ground after their plans to develop the facilities were stymied by the local council. London Irish are in a similar position at Sunbury.

They have been talking to Chelsea about a possible move to Stamford Bridge but they have not given up hope of staying at Sunbury where they own

19 acres. If they are not allowed to develop the ground, they could sell the land for housing and that might be a more unattractive proposition to the local residents.

London Irish: T. Try, Bachop, Penalties Collins, Cunningham (2), Conversion: Cunningham (2). Harlequins: T. Wood, Conversion: Schuster, Penalties Schuster (3).

London Irish: C. O'Shea (capt), J. Bishop, N. Burrows (R. Todd, 60), S. Venter, J. Cunningham (M. Woods, 60), S. Bachop, K. Platt, N. Hatley, M. Howe (R. Kieck, 60), K. Furlan (R. Hatfield, 71), R. Stroudwick, M. O'Kelly, J. Boer, R. Gellacher (K. Spicer, 68), K. Davison.

Harlequins: J. Williams, D. Luge, D. O'Connor, J. Schuster, D. O'Leary (J. Keyter, 73), T. Lacroix, G. Huxley, C. Wright, S. G. Huxley (D. Barnes, 68), R. Wood, J. Leach, G. Morgan, G. Llewellyn, R. Jenkins, C. Sheehy, A. Leach. Referee: E. Morrison (RFU).

Cardiff consider secession

CARDIFF HINTED last night they are considering joining another union in the event of possible expulsion or secession from the Welsh Rugby Union. Their chief executive, Gareth Davies, indicated the move after watching Cardiff throw away a substantial lead, and almost certain victory, to slump to their fourth consecutive Anglo-Welsh defeat.

Cardiff, and their fellow rebels Swansea, are refusing to pay a £150,000 fine imposed on them by the WRU for arranging these unsanctioned friendly matches against English clubs. "We are certainly not going to pay the fine," declared Davies. "One option for the WRU is to expel us for not paying the fine. We can't wait until

BY DAVID LLEWELLYN

Waspas 28
Cardiff 24

the 28 February deadline before deciding what to do. We have to look at the options open to us in the event of that."

One of those would be to join the Rugby Football Union, a logical step given the Anglo-Welsh set-up, and Davies did not rule that out. "It is almost getting to the stage where we will have to approach another union," he said.

Cardiff do not even know when they can play Llandovery in the Swalec Cup. Building work at the Arms Park delayed Saturday's fourth round tie. Cardiff have offered any mid-

week date between now and the end of January, but the junior club claims too many of their amateur players cannot take time off.

So all that is left is the Anglo-Welsh series. And on the evidence of this little thriller, cross-border competition should prove beneficial all-round to northern hemisphere rugby. It kept a 4,395 crowd interested to the end despite the chill.

Gregori Kacala, Cardiff's monster Pole at the back of the scrum's one-man stampedes scattered opposition bodies. Behind him Lee Jarvis frequently got his back moving and the powerful and pacy Leigh Davies posed plenty of problems. His two breaks in the

same move, and his cunning grubber kick, led to Cardiff's opening try by stand-off Jarvis.

But Wasps' four tries were, in the end, decisive. The first saw hooker Simon Mitchell speed into the right hand corner, the second came from young prop Andrew Le Chevalier, and the third from replacement hooker Dinos Alexopoulos. Josh Lewsey got the crucial touch-down late in the game.

Wasps: T. Mitchell, Le Chevalier, Alexopoulos, Lewsey, Conversion: King, Penalties: Jones, Conversion: Jones, Penalties: Jones 4, Drop goal: Penalties.

Cardiff: C. Morgan, S. Hill, L. Davies, M. White, A. Sullivan, L. Jarvis, R. Jones, A. Lewis, J. Hargreaves (capt), P. Young, S. J. I. Weston, R. Stewart, S. Moore, S. J. I. Weston, G. Kacala, D. Savage (S. Moore, 60-61). Referee: G. Bowden (Wales).

Newcastle grab Sale bargain

THIS SEASON Newcastle have only fleetingly revealed the form that took them to the title. But they produced enough of it in patches, against a difficult Sale side, to hoist themselves a couple of places up the table in a match which promised much but, which became terribly disjointed in the second half until Gareth Archer sealed victory with Newcastle's fifth try.

This was the first of four games for Newcastle against teams from the bottom five within the next two weeks. Moreover, with a match in hand over some of their challengers, if Newcastle were to pick up the maximum eight points, they will need no reminding that the outcome of the title race is far

BY PAUL STEPHENS

Newcastle 30
Sale 15

from a foregone conclusion. And with Sale being the most likely to interrupt those ambitions, the two points they picked up against the Manchester side was a handy start.

On a crisp, dry afternoon, the game got off to a cracking start. What distinguishes Newcastle from most teams in the Premiership is that they invariably make the most of advantageous field positions; especially at Kingston Park, where they have not tasted defeat in the league for almost three years. Within two minutes Newcastle had established a foothold deep

in Sale territory. From the line-out, Daddie Weir popped the ball to Pete Walton, and Gary Armstrong burrowed over for a trademark try.

Sale's response was immediate and telling. Peter Anglesea was allowed too much time on the ball. Richard Smith and Shane Howarth took it on, and Steve Haney completed the move for a superb try. While this was a sharp reminder of Sale's ability to score tries from all parts of the field, it was not until Shane Howarth scored a delightful individual try in the third quarter that Sale offered any real threat.

If only they could add some substance to their style, and find a way of winning more often away from Heywood

Road, they would be in the top half of the table.

However, if Jonny Wilkinson and Rob Andrew had not missed four conversions, defeat would have been more emphatic and a try count of five to two tells its own story. Stuart Legg bagged two, and Martin Shaw another, before the break. Thereafter, only Howarth and Archer took the eye, as Peter Anglesea, Kevin Ellis and Ross Nesdale were sent to the sin-bin.

Newcastle: T. Mitchell, Le Chevalier, Alexopoulos, Lewsey, Conversion: King, Penalties: Jones, Conversion: Jones, Penalties: Jones 4, Drop goal: Penalties.

Cardiff: C. Morgan, S. Hill, L. Davies, M. White, A. Sullivan, L. Jarvis, R. Jones, A. Lewis, J. Hargreaves (capt), P. Young, S. J. I. Weston, R. Stewart, S. Moore, S. J. I. Weston, G. Kacala, D. Savage (S. Moore, 60-61). Referee: G. Bowden (Wales).

Hunters feed grist to Mill

WHEN A horse is owned by the company behind a tipping service it is a fair bet that subscribers to that line are going to be among its most enthusiastic supporters. Yesterday, just 24 hours after betting opened on Boxing Day's King George VI Chase, Teton Mill, owned by the Winning Line tipping service, was the subject of a plunge for the big race.

Available at 9-2 before betting opened yesterday, Teton Mill is now generally a 3-1 chance, although Stanley Racing still offers 7-2. There is a good chance that those odds will be taken and that Teton Mill will usurp See More Business at the head of the market at some stage during a week in which there is little live racing to keep punters amused.

Caution should be exercised. A similar gamble on Teton Mill took place before

former Seven Towers came in for misplaced support. In other words, do not rush down to your High Street shop this morning with your Christmas club money, but contemplate your selection over a turkey sandwich on Boxing Day when the important factor of the going can be included.

RICHARD EDMONDSON
Map: Rainstorm
(Lingfield 3.40)
NB: Aofie
(Lingfield 2.40)

The grey's trainer, Venetia Williams, said yesterday: "Teton Mill is fine and ready for Kempton and, within reason, won't mind what the ground is."

"He was impressive at Newbury, but I don't know if he's improving because he won on the hurdle at Wincanton [on his previous outing] and was equally impressive that day."

Imperial Call has been given the go-ahead for the Kempton race in an attempt to end Ireland's long lean spell in the £100,000 prize. The last Irish-trained horse to lift the race was Captain Christy, the winner in 1974 and 1975.

Raymond Hurley, trainer of the 1996 Cheltenham Gold Cup winner, said that the nine-year-old will fly over from Cork on Christmas Eve.

"The going at Kempton is soft, I understand," Hurley said. "And this suits us. I would only change my mind if, for some reason, the ground dried out but this is unlikely."

Not so unlikely, perhaps, as yesterday the official bulletin from Kempton was that the ground was good to soft, good in places. With some fierce winds blowing South East England, there is every chance that the track could dry out further, which would make Leopardstown's Ericsson Chase a week today an enticing alternative. Hurley still hopes to sign up either Richard Dunwoody or Tony McCoy for the ride.

Super Tactics, who has won five times at the course including a fine victory in last season's Racing Post Chase, is reported to be in fine form for the stiffest task of his career so far. Last year's winning jockey with See More Business, Andrew Thornton, takes the ride.



Real talent: Get Real clears the water jump at Ascot on Saturday on the way to success in the Frogmere Chase. Julian Herbert/Allsport

Edmondson on track with Express

RICHARD EDMONDSON, the racing correspondent of the Independent, strengthened his position at the top of the Racing Post naps table for newspaper tipsters when Torduff Express won Saturday's main event, the Betterware Chase, at odds of 9-2. Princiful, at 11-4, completed a 19-1 double for Edmondson in the day's other feature race at Ascot. Edmondson's Saturday followers were rewarded with the 33-1 success of Alzooome the previous week and the victory of Torduff Express hoists the profit to a £1 level stake on all his naps this season to £36.38.

Injury misery for Murphy

TIMMY MURPHY, who must suffer the frustration of his former partner See More Business starting favourite for Boxing Day's King George VI Chase under a new jockey, Joe 'Tizzard', is to take a week's rest from riding after suffering a fall at Lingfield on Friday.

Murphy and his mount, Euborad, were out of contention in a novice hurdle when taking a crashing fall at the second-last flight. "I'm just feeling a bit sore," Murphy, who has lost his position as principal rider for

Paul Nicholls's stable, said. "There's nothing broken but I have a bit of an injury and I'm uncomfortable around my ribs and shoulders. I'm looking forward to coming back on Boxing Day."

Kieren Fallon continued his good run in Hong Kong on Saturday by landing a double at Sha Tin on Sar Tourism and the well-named Grand Start. Britain's champion has now ridden five winners in the territory since his three-month stint began at the start of December.

KEMPTON - BOXING DAY

2.20	PERTEMPS KING GEORGE VI CHASE (CLASS A) £100,000 added 3m Penalty Value £50,000	C4
40-40	CHALLENGER DU LUC (2) (D) A Johnson M P 8 11 0	J Osborne
40-40	COOMBE HILL (2) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0	J Osborne
40-40	CRONDO (2) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0	J Osborne
40-40	ESCAPERIE (2) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0	J Osborne
40-40	GO BALLISTIC (2) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0	J Osborne
40-40	IMPERIAL CALL (2) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0	J Osborne
40-40	MILLIONAIRE (2) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0	J Osborne
40-40	SEE MORE BUSINESS (2) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0	J Osborne
40-40	SIMPLY DASHING (2) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0	J Osborne
40-40	SUPER TACTICS (2) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0	J Osborne
40-40	TESTON MILL (2) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0	J Osborne
40-40	THE GREY MONK (2) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0	J Osborne

12.40 Night City	2.40 That's Life
1.10 Priors Moor	3.10 GINNETT MORRIS (nap)
1.40 Prince Consort	3.40 Kimono
2.10 Ransan (nb)	

12.40	CHRISTMAS APPRENTICE HANDICAP (CLASS G) £2,500 added 1m 5f Penalty Value £1,737
1	0001 NIGHT CITY (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
2	0002 COOMBE HILL (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
3	0003 CRONDO (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
4	0004 ESCAPERIE (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
5	0005 GO BALLISTIC (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
6	0006 IMPERIAL CALL (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
7	0007 MILLIONAIRE (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
8	0008 SEE MORE BUSINESS (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
9	0009 SIMPLY DASHING (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
10	0010 SUPER TACTICS (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
11	0011 TESTON MILL (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
12	0012 THE GREY MONK (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0

1.10	EASAL HANDICAP (CLASS E) (DIV I) £3,750 added 1m 2f Penalty Value £2,595
1	0001 NIGHT CITY (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
2	0002 COOMBE HILL (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
3	0003 CRONDO (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
4	0004 ESCAPERIE (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
5	0005 GO BALLISTIC (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
6	0006 IMPERIAL CALL (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
7	0007 MILLIONAIRE (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
8	0008 SEE MORE BUSINESS (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
9	0009 SIMPLY DASHING (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
10	0010 SUPER TACTICS (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
11	0011 TESTON MILL (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
12	0012 THE GREY MONK (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0

2.40	49'S HANDICAP (CLASS C) £10,000 added 6f Penalty Value £7,100
1	0001 NIGHT CITY (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
2	0002 COOMBE HILL (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
3	0003 CRONDO (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
4	0004 ESCAPERIE (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
5	0005 GO BALLISTIC (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
6	0006 IMPERIAL CALL (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
7	0007 MILLIONAIRE (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
8	0008 SEE MORE BUSINESS (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
9	0009 SIMPLY DASHING (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
10	0010 SUPER TACTICS (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
11	0011 TESTON MILL (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
12	0012 THE GREY MONK (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0

3.40	SEASONS GREETINGS MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,000 added 7f Penalty Value £2,788
1	0001 NIGHT CITY (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
2	0002 COOMBE HILL (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
3	0003 CRONDO (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
4	0004 ESCAPERIE (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
5	0005 GO BALLISTIC (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
6	0006 IMPERIAL CALL (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
7	0007 MILLIONAIRE (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
8	0008 SEE MORE BUSINESS (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
9	0009 SIMPLY DASHING (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
10	0010 SUPER TACTICS (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
11	0011 TESTON MILL (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
12	0012 THE GREY MONK (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0

1.40	BEST WISHES TO ALL RACGOERS MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (F) £3,000 2YO 6f Pen Value £2,085
1	0001 NIGHT CITY (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
2	0002 COOMBE HILL (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
3	0003 CRONDO (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
4	0004 ESCAPERIE (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
5	0005 GO BALLISTIC (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
6	0006 IMPERIAL CALL (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
7	0007 MILLIONAIRE (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
8	0008 SEE MORE BUSINESS (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
9	0009 SIMPLY DASHING (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
10	0010 SUPER TACTICS (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
11	0011 TESTON MILL (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
12	0012 THE GREY MONK (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0

2.10	HAPPY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE NURSERY HANDICAP (CLASS E) £3,750 added 2YO 6f Penalty Value £2,832
1	0001 NIGHT CITY (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
2	0002 COOMBE HILL (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
3	0003 CRONDO (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
4	0004 ESCAPERIE (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
5	0005 GO BALLISTIC (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
6	0006 IMPERIAL CALL (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
7	0007 MILLIONAIRE (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
8	0008 SEE MORE BUSINESS (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
9	0009 SIMPLY DASHING (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
10	0010 SUPER TACTICS (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
11	0011 TESTON MILL (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
12	0012 THE GREY MONK (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0

2.40	49'S HANDICAP (CLASS C) £10,000 added 6f Penalty Value £7,100
1	0001 NIGHT CITY (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
2	0002 COOMBE HILL (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
3	0003 CRONDO (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
4	0004 ESCAPERIE (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
5	0005 GO BALLISTIC (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
6	0006 IMPERIAL CALL (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
7	0007 MILLIONAIRE (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
8	0008 SEE MORE BUSINESS (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
9	0009 SIMPLY DASHING (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
10	0010 SUPER TACTICS (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
11	0011 TESTON MILL (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
12	0012 THE GREY MONK (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0

3.40	SEASONS GREETINGS MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,000 added 7f Penalty Value £2,788
1	0001 NIGHT CITY (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
2	0002 COOMBE HILL (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
3	0003 CRONDO (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
4	0004 ESCAPERIE (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
5	0005 GO BALLISTIC (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
6	0006 IMPERIAL CALL (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
7	0007 MILLIONAIRE (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
8	0008 SEE MORE BUSINESS (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
9	0009 SIMPLY DASHING (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
10	0010 SUPER TACTICS (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
11	0011 TESTON MILL (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
12	0012 THE GREY MONK (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0

1.10	EASAL HANDICAP (CLASS E) (DIV I) £3,750 added 1m 2f Penalty Value £2,595
1	0001 NIGHT CITY (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
2	0002 COOMBE HILL (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
3	0003 CRONDO (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
4	0004 ESCAPERIE (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
5	0005 GO BALLISTIC (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
6	0006 IMPERIAL CALL (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
7	0007 MILLIONAIRE (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
8	0008 SEE MORE BUSINESS (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
9	0009 SIMPLY DASHING (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
10	0010 SUPER TACTICS (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
11	0011 TESTON MILL (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
12	0012 THE GREY MONK (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0

3.10	EASAL HANDICAP (CLASS E) (DIV II) £3,750 added 1m 2f Penalty Value £2,495
1	0001 NIGHT CITY (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
2	0002 COOMBE HILL (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
3	0003 CRONDO (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
4	0004 ESCAPERIE (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
5	0005 GO BALLISTIC (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
6	0006 IMPERIAL CALL (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
7	0007 MILLIONAIRE (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
8	0008 SEE MORE BUSINESS (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
9	0009 SIMPLY DASHING (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
10	0010 SUPER TACTICS (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
11	0011 TESTON MILL (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
12	0012 THE GREY MONK (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0

3.40	SEASONS GREETINGS MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,000 added 7f Penalty Value £2,788
1	0001 NIGHT CITY (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
2	0002 COOMBE HILL (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
3	0003 CRONDO (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
4	0004 ESCAPERIE (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
5	0005 GO BALLISTIC (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
6	0006 IMPERIAL CALL (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
7	0007 MILLIONAIRE (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
8	0008 SEE MORE BUSINESS (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
9	0009 SIMPLY DASHING (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
10	0010 SUPER TACTICS (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
11	0011 TESTON MILL (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
12	0012 THE GREY MONK (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0

1.10	EASAL HANDICAP (CLASS E) (DIV I) £3,750 added 1m 2f Penalty Value £2,595
1	0001 NIGHT CITY (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
2	0002 COOMBE HILL (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
3	0003 CRONDO (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
4	0004 ESCAPERIE (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
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9	0009 SIMPLY DASHING (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
10	0010 SUPER TACTICS (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
11	0011 TESTON MILL (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
12	0012 THE GREY MONK (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0

2.40	49'S HANDICAP (CLASS C) £10,000 added 6f Penalty Value £7,100
1	0001 NIGHT CITY (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
2	0002 COOMBE HILL (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
3	0003 CRONDO (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
4	0004 ESCAPERIE (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
5	0005 GO BALLISTIC (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
6	0006 IMPERIAL CALL (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
7	0007 MILLIONAIRE (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
8	0008 SEE MORE BUSINESS (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
9	0009 SIMPLY DASHING (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
10	0010 SUPER TACTICS (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
11	0011 TESTON MILL (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
12	0012 THE GREY MONK (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0

3.10	EASAL HANDICAP (CLASS E) (DIV II) £3,750 added 1m 2f Penalty Value £2,495
1	0001 NIGHT CITY (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
2	0002 COOMBE HILL (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
3	0003 CRONDO (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
4	0004 ESCAPERIE (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
5	0005 GO BALLISTIC (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
6	0006 IMPERIAL CALL (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
7	0007 MILLIONAIRE (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
8	0008 SEE MORE BUSINESS (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
9	0009 SIMPLY DASHING (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
10	0010 SUPER TACTICS (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
11	0011 TESTON MILL (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
12	0012 THE GREY MONK (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0

3.40	SEASONS GREETINGS MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,000 added 7f Penalty Value £2,788
1	0001 NIGHT CITY (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
2	0002 COOMBE HILL (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
3	0003 CRONDO (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
4	0004 ESCAPERIE (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
5	0005 GO BALLISTIC (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
6	0006 IMPERIAL CALL (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
7	0007 MILLIONAIRE (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
8	0008 SEE MORE BUSINESS (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
9	0009 SIMPLY DASHING (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
10	0010 SUPER TACTICS (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
11	0011 TESTON MILL (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
12	0012 THE GREY MONK (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0

1.10	EASAL HANDICAP (CLASS E) (DIV I) £3,750 added 1m 2f Penalty Value £2,595
1	0001 NIGHT CITY (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
2	0002 COOMBE HILL (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
3	0003 CRONDO (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
4	0004 ESCAPERIE (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
5	0005 GO BALLISTIC (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
6	0006 IMPERIAL CALL (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
7	0007 MILLIONAIRE (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
8	0008 SEE MORE BUSINESS (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
9	0009 SIMPLY DASHING (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
10	0010 SUPER TACTICS (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
11	0011 TESTON MILL (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0
12	0012 THE GREY MONK (14) (D) M J Denny M P 8 11 0

2.40	49'S HANDICAP (CLASS C) £10,000 added 6f Penalty Value £7,100
1	0001 NIGHT CITY (14) (D) M J

Bristol's foreign legion cope with culture shock

the City chairman, Scott Davidson, recalled. "He was delighted when I said he could see her as much as he'd like."

Tistemițanu chose City despite offers from Spartak Moscow and Romania's Steaua Bucharest. If granted a work permit, he will receive a welcome pay rise after the £225,000 move from Zimbru Chisinau. In Moldova, he earned £100-a-month, despite international experience against the forwards of Italy, Germany and, at Wembley, Finland.

12
Nottingham Forest's run of failures to keep a clean sheet.

18
The meetings since Tottenham last managed a League win over Chelsea

68
Middlesbrough's wait – in years – for a win at Old

I TOLD YOU SO

We are not in crisis. We are at a turning point

Gérard Houllier, speaking before Saturday's 2-0 win over Sheffield Wednesday. So far, so good – but will it last?

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Rio grand, but can the Hammers hold him?

COOL, STRONG, good in the air, comfortable on the ball, just 20 years old; no wonder Rio Ferdinand is spoken of as a fixture in England's defence for the next decade, the natural successor to West Ham's supreme hero, Bobby Moore.

Moore spent most of his career at Upton Park, international achievement bolstering his preference for familiar surroundings at a time when there was no great profit in switching allegiance.

Times change. "Who knows," Harry Redknapp replied reflectively when recent speculation about Ferdinand's future was put to him. "What we're trying to do is make the



KEN JONES

progress that will keep Rio and other young players who are coming through happy."

Ferdinand's performances may be doing wonders for Redknapp's peace of mind - "I sleep easier just knowing he's

in the team," - but West Ham's manager must live with the possibility of losing him. "The way things are in football now it is difficult to keep a player when he can double, even triple his wages by going to a club that has a good chance of winning the championship."

If common sense prevails, Redknapp lives in hope that an extension of the improvement sustained since the relegation worries of two seasons ago will endear Ferdinand to the club he has grown up with. Now sixth in the Premiership after a seventh place finish last term, their realistic target is a crack at European competition. At the risk of going over-

board about a player who still has things to learn - a mistake that could hinder Michael Owen's progress - Ferdinand looks made for it.

The most glowing tribute comes from his French teammate Marc Keller who was brought up with Marcel Desailly and Lillian Thurman of his country's World Cup winning team. "Marc says that Rio will be in a different class to both of them," Redknapp added.

More than any other factor, Ferdinand's assurance under pressure enables Redknapp to risk the perils of momentum that allows the opposition room for retaliatory manoeuvre.

Saturday's 2-1 defeat of Everton clearly emphasised West Ham's ability to break. Everton were not so much transformed in the second half as realising the possibilities arising from the Hammer's eagerness to get forward.

"It became end to end stuff. We were running past each other in midfield," Redknapp added.

Behind in the 19th minute when Keller's attempted centre found their net after looping over Thomas Myrhe and striking the far post, Everton drew level when Danny Cadamarteri forced home a low centre from the substitute Nick Barry.

Everton, however, were unable to consolidate, their goal falling again almost immediately when Trevor Sinclair launched himself at Keller's cross to head the winner.

Not that the game's fluctuations were over. Chances came at both ends and on another day Ian Wright, who foolishly got himself a mention in the referee's report for booting the ball out of play, might have been on a hat trick.

A battle of wills in midfield between Eyal Berkovic and his shadow, Olivier Dacourt, briefly went the Everton man's way when he began to spring forward, but it swung again in an exciting finale.

Not in the least troubled when he is left without frontal protection - shades of the best defender ever to wear England's colours - Ferdinand dealt calmly with crises that arose from Cadamarteri's eager surges.

Even so, West Ham almost paid for their profligate finishing when conceding a free-kick from 20 yards in the last minute.

Dacourt struck it well but Shaka Hlophe, adding to the good impression he has made since arriving on a free transfer from Newcastle, turned the ball for a corner.

Walter Smith offered no excuses for a defeat that ended

Everton's mini revival. "We didn't perform in the first half and after getting back into the game we threw it away with bad defending," he said.

Honours in that department went to the player whose ability causes Redknapp to drool. "Frightening," he said.

Goals: Keller (19); 1-0: Cadamarteri (71); 1-1: Sinclair (75); 2-1: West Ham (3-5-2); Hlophe: Pearce, Ferdinand, Dicks, Sinclair, Lomas, Berkovic, Lampard, Keller, Harrison, Wright. Substitutes not used: Forest (3-5-2); Myrhe: Bille, Marozzi, Unsworth, Ward, Collins, 75; Grant (Barnaby, 64); Dacourt, Hutchinson, Cleland; Cadamarteri, Madar (Branch, 64). Substitutes not used: Simonsen (64), Farley.

Bookings: West Ham: Lomas, Wright, Ferdinand, Dacourt, Hutchinson, Bille, Cadamarteri.

Referee: R Harris (Oxford).

Man of the match: Ferdinand.

Attendance: 25,998.

Boro expose United plan to dominate

THE TITANIC was a real life disaster of recent memory, rather than a film, the last time Middlesbrough succeeded at Old Trafford. Their 3-0 victory in January 1990 came in a month of cataclysmic proportions for Manchester United, who also lost at home to Swindon Town of the Third Division South in the FA Cup.

No one expects a spell of similar ups, or do we? On a day of reunions, one was notable for its absence: Manchester United's increasingly distant touch with defensive solidarity. Much more of this and ambitions, at home and abroad, will come to nothing.

Twenty-one goals have been conceded in their last 10 matches and, but for their qualification for the knockout phase of the European Cup, the last four weeks would have been no more than a series of unrelenting mediocrity. The entertainment is glorious, it is just the results that are problem. They have won only once since November 14.

Forget the rousing finale and treat the scoreline as an impostor because, for an hour, supposedly the best team in England were overwhelmed by outplayed, Middlesbrough were splendid, United simply not.

Nowhere was the contrast more exposed than in the home penalty area, where Hamilton Ricard and Brian Deane reduced Gary Neville and Ronny Johnsen to rubble. "Individual errors," was Jim Ryan's succinct assessment, before adding enigmatically: "It is a worry. We will have to address it again."

The fact that Ryan, the reserve team coach, was addressing the media was one symptom of the mitigating circumstances that could be paraded in defence of the

defence. Jaap Stam was missing with an ankle injury but, more importantly, Alex Ferguson was absent because of a family bereavement.

You can only imagine the volcanic activity on the touchline if the United manager had been present as Middlesbrough went 3-0 up with goals from Ricard, Dean Gordon and Deane. But it was his selection that performed so badly, so perhaps little would have changed. Just the language in the dressing-room.

It was not hard to find paradoxes. Former United players Bryan Robson and Viv Anderson were directing operations from the visiting bench while Gary Pallister, who was a huge, mobile obstacle at Old Trafford for nine seasons, was magnificent in the Middlesbrough defence.

"I think he should still be playing for England," Robson said of Pallister and, while some might raise eyebrows at that, the giant centre-back could certainly be enrolled into the nation's diplomatic service, given his comments about United's wretched defending.

"They've had a few injuries," he said, "they've never really had a settled back four, and that always causes problems. Steve (Bruce) and myself found out we were all over the place when we weren't playing regularly. If you can't get a settled partnership, it's difficult. Obviously they want to get their two best players at the back and have a partnership which will last as long as possible."

On the assumption there was no defence, Ryan abandoned it altogether in a death-or-glory charge at the finish

and it almost yielded a point. Ole Gunnar Solskjaer came on for Phil Neville and, more contentiously, Paul Scholes replaced David Beckham.

The England midfielder had redeemed an undistinguished performance that culminated in a booking after an ugly lunge at Ricard with a cross that led to Nicky Butt's goal.

And he followed that up with a similar arc of precision that Ryan Giggs ought to have headed in. But Ryan was fearful that the short fuse was burning, and, when he looked for a way to introduce Scholes, Beckham was an obvious choice.

The change almost had the required effect, too, because Scholes made the score 3-2 after 70 minutes and was to the fore in the mayhem that caused Mark Schwarzer to clear straight to Andy Cole with four minutes remaining.

The United striker's shot was partially blocked by the Boro goalkeeper, but was still heading for goal when Steve Vickers cleared it over his own bar.

Boro survived and their supporters could conclude the match by singing "We're going to win the League". They will not, their squad is too shallow, but on this evidence neither will United, whose last clean sheet was on November 8.

Urgent action is required.

Goals: Ricard (23) 0-1; Gordon (31) 0-2; Deane (59) 0-3; Butt (62) 1-3; Scholes (70) 2-3.

Manchester United (4-4-2): Schmeichel; P. Neville (Solskjaer, 78); Johnsen, G. Neville, Irving, Beckham (Scholes, 63); Keane, Butt, Giggs, Sheringham, Cole. Substitutes not used: Blomqvist, Brown, Van der Gouw (64).

Middlesbrough (3-5-2): Schwarzer; Cooper, Vickers, Pallister, Faza, Mustoe (Moore, 71); Maddison (Beck, 82); Townsend, Gordon, Deane, Ricard. Substitutes not used: Blackburn, Stockdale, Roberts (64).

Referee: G. Hillard (Worcester).

Bookings: Manchester United: Beckham; Middlesbrough: Faza.

Man of the match: Ricard.

Attendance: 55,152.



Gary Pallister gives Teddy Sheringham a blast from the past Chris Gleave

Forest's currency devalued

POOR FOREST. They fight against the current, but in time the tide will surely sweep them away. The Nationwide League can dust off the welcome mat: Forest are on their way back.

They gave a gutsy performance on Saturday but in the end fortune did not look kindly on them. Two goals up at half-time, they allowed Blackburn back early in the second half, and just when they thought a 14-match run without victory was over, cracked again three minutes into stoppage time.

Thanks to Southampton's success, Forest are bottom of the table for Christmas, a position from which teams rarely recover. Worse still, they have no money for the January sales.

Ultimately, that is what it comes down to: spending power, an area in which Blackburn are enviably placed. Last week, their owner, Jack Walker, sanctioned the £2.5m purchase of Keith Gillespie from Newcastle and, it is reported, authorised the club's new manager, Brian Kidd, to go to £5m in his attempt to prise Ashley Ward from Barnsley. It makes a stark contrast with the Forest manager, Dave Bassett, who knows it is pointless even to look on the same shelf.

For the Forest supporters who saw their future sold to the City two years ago, it is all a painful let-down. When the consortium financed by Nigel Wray and Irving Scholar won control, turning the old committee-run club with its £1 shareholders into a go-ahead plc, those supporters envisaged prosperity, not the poor house.

But Wray and company say their investment is spent. They have put in £18m, of which £8m-7m amounts to Bassett's net transfer deficit. A chunk went to pay off inherited debts, which puts Forest on a sound financial footing but does nothing in the currency that supporters regard as crucial - League points.

At the club's annual meeting last month, Wray, investor and property developer, showed he

will not draw on his large personal fortune to save Forest from the drop. And the bank, he says, is equally unwilling.

It is not something Walker would tell an agent. But this is the trouble with football clubs run by a plc, especially one involving men in the City. Walker loves Blackburn. What does Wray feel for Forest?

They scrapped as Bassett's sides can on Saturday. But that alone will not be enough. They coped without Pierre van Hooijdonk, out with a sore calf, but could not withstand relentless Blackburn pressure through much of the second half.

That apart, you could fault them for nothing. Neil Shipperley and Dougie Freedman fought for every ball. Steve Stone was tireless and the others in midfield all put in their maximum. At the back, Jesper Mattsson, for whom Bassett paid £200,000 to Halmstad of Sweden, caught the mood with a commanding display.

Forest went ahead from a contentious penalty; and increased the lead through Freedman's seventh goal of the season, created by Shipperley. But Blackburn, tentative at first, inevitably came back, although Forest were unlucky, having been within touching distance of their first Premiership win since 29 August.

One more match without a win and Forest will equal a club record. Next up: Manchester United, away.

Goals: Chettle (pen 22) 1-0; Freedman (30) 2-0; Blake (48) 2-1; Blake (50) 2-2.

Blackburn Rovers (4-4-2): Seaman; Hiekie, Marrinson, Chettle, Rogers (Armstrong, 68); Stone, Johnson, Gerrard, Bart-Williams, Shipperley (Hartwood, 82). Substitutes not used: Crossley (64), Bonal, Darche.

Blackburn Rovers (4-4-2): Plan: Kenna, Henchoz, Dally, Davidson, Gillespie (Johnson, 78), Sherwood, McKinlay, Wilton (Duff, 89); Sutton, Blake. Substitutes not used: Davies, Peacock, Fettes (64).

Referee: S. Lodge (Barnsley).

Bookings: Forest: Bassett, Bart-Williams; Blackburn: McKinlay, Henchoz, Sutton, Gillespie.

Man of the match: Shipperley.

Attendance: 22,013.

Worries EasyPlay

Game Results 19/12/98.

This Saturday there were 5 score draws:

COVENTRY	V	DERBY	121 LUCKY WINNERS
NOTT'M F.	V	BLACKBURN	THIS WEEK
CRYSTAL P.	V	QPR	EACH SCOOP OVER
HESTERFIELD	V	WIGAN	\$1,500
READING	V	OLDHAM	

*Matchmaker Adjudicated Results for postponed matches

Home wins (0): NONE.
Away wins (0): NONE.
No score draws (0): NONE.
Score draws (0): NONE.

121 LUCKY WINNERS THIS WEEK

PAYOFFS FOR 5 SCORE DRAWS

You can now play until 4.30pm every Saturday.

CATEGORY	NO. OF WINNERS	AMOUNT TO EACH WINNER
5 Score draws	121	\$1,534

Value of tickets entered this week: \$488,461.
38% of sales contributed to prizes.
This week's contribution to good causes \$187,000.

EVERY WEEK IT'S A WHOLE NEW BALL GAME.

To claim your prize, follow instructions on the back of your ticket.
You must be 16 or over to play or claim a prize.
In the event of any discrepancy in the above, the data contained in the central computer system shall prevail.

THIS WEEK'S MAJOR FIXTURES

TODAY

FOOTBALL: See panel, page 25

RACING (National Hunt unless stated): Kanto (First race 12.55); LINGFIELD (All Weather Flat) (1.10).

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL (7.45 unless stated): Aston Villa v Sheffield Wednesday; First round: Notts County v Hull City; English Football League Trophy second round: Rotherham v Rushden & Diamonds; RUGBY UNION: Harlequins v Gloucester; Midlands Championships: Shropshire v Greater Birmingham (7.30) (at Harper Adams College); SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Olympia International Championships (Pensington, London); RACING: Ludlow (12.45); SOUTHWELL (All Weather Flat) (1.0).

WEDNESDAY

RUGBY UNION: Cheltenham and Gloucester Cup first round second leg: Oxford v Sale (7.15).

BOXING DAY

FOOTBALL (3.0 unless stated): FA Carling Premiership: Arsenal v West Ham (12.0); Blackburn v Aston Villa (6.0); Coventry v Tottenham; Everton v Derby; Manchester United v Nottingham Forest; Middlesbrough v Liverpool; Newcastle v Leeds; Sheffield Wednesday v Leicester; Southampton v Chelsea (12.0); Wimbledon v Charlton (12.0); Nationwide Football League First Division: Birmingham v Sheffield United; Bolton v Bradford City (1.0); Crewe v Bury; Huddersfield v Grimsby; Ipswich v Portsmouth; Oxford United v Crystal Palace; Queens Park Rangers v Norwich (12.0); Stockport v Barnsley (1.0); Swindon v Wolves; Tranmere v Sunderland; Watford v Bristol City (12.0); West Bromwich v Port Vale (1.0); Second Division: Blackpool v Wigan (1.0); Bristol Rovers v Gillingham; Chesterfield v Oldham; Fulham v Colchester (12.0); Lincoln City v

League First Division: Aldershot v Rotherham; Luton v Reading (12.0); Millwall v Bournemouth (12.0); Notts County v Northampton; Stoke v Preston; Walsall v Wycombe; Wrexham v Manchester City (12.0); York v Burnley; Third Division: Barnet v Plymouth Argyle (1.30); Brighton v Brentford (12.0); Cambridge United v Rotherham; Cardiff v Shrewsbury (12.0); Exeter v Torquay; Grimsby v Gillingham (2.0); Hull v Chester; Leyton Orient v Swindon (1.30); Mansfield v Scarborough; Rochdale v Carlisle; Scunthorpe v Hartlepool; Southend v Peterborough (1.0); Football Conference: Doncaster v Leek; Farnborough v Hayes; Forest Green v Wood; Kettering v Huddersfield; Kidderminster v Hereford (12.30); Kingtonian v Woking (12.0); Northwich v Morecambe; Southport v Barrow; Stevenage v Rushden & Diamonds; Telford v Gillingham; Welling v Dover (12.0); Scottish Premier League: Dunfermline v Aberdeen; Kilmarnock v Hearts; Motherwell v Dundee United; Rangers v St Johnstone. Scottish

League First Division: Airdrie v Raith; Falkirk v Stranraer; Greenock Morton v Clydebank; Hamilton v St Mirren; Hibernian v Arbroath; Inverness Caledonian Thistle v Arbroath; Forfar, Clyde v Partick Thistle; Albion Rovers v Queen's Park; Bertha v Montrose; Dumbarton v Berwick; Ross County v Cowdenbeath; Stenhousemuir v East Stirling.

League First Division: Preston v Accrington; Featherstone v Castleford (11.30); Leeds v Halifax (11.30).

RUGBY UNION (3.0 unless stated): Allied Irish Bank Premiership: Leicester v Bedford; Richmond v London Irish; Jessem National League One: Birmingham/Solihull v Nottingham (2.30); Harrogate v Wharfedale (2.15); Newbury v Uxbridge; Okeley v Morley (2.15); Rosslyn Park v Canterbury (2.30); Tame North (2.30); Aspinall v Kendal; Stourbridge v Whitchurch; Twa Scaes (2.30); Clifton v Bridgewater; Plymouth v Redruth; Welsh National League: Premier Division (2.30); Carmarilly v Newport; Ebbw Vale v Aberystwyth; Neath v Llanelli; Pontypridd v Bridgend; First Division (2.30); Aberystwyth v Newbridge; Blackwood v UWIC; Durness v Tondur; Llandovery Castle v Pontypool v Brynmawr; Rummy v South Wales Police; Tredegar v Merthyr; Treorchy v Aberystwyth; Angle-Heath; Friends: Northampton v Cardiff; Swansea v Bath (2.30); Bank of Scotland Border League (2.0); Gale v Melrose; Henric v Peebles; Jed-Forest v Kelso.

RUGBY UNION (12.45): Age (12.55); Hereford (12.25); Huddersfield (1.0); Market Rasen (12.30); Newton Abbot (1.20); Sedgfield (1.0); Wetherby (12.45); Wincanton (1.0); Wolverhampton (All Weather Flat) (1.30).

SUNDAY

FOOTBALL: Scottish Premier League: Dundee v Celtic (6.05); Scottish Football League Second Division: East Fife v Inverness Caledonian Thistle (3.0); Queen of the South v Livingston (3.0); RUGBY UNION: Jessem National League Two South: Barking v Tabor (2.15).

TODAY'S NUMBER

0

The number of Chinese athletes who failed drugs tests at the Asian Games, which finished in Bangkok yesterday. They had 11 failures at the last Games in Hiroshima in 1994.

TOMORROW

WHO SAID 'IF I HAD A SWORD I'D CUT OFF HIS HEAD'?

FIND OUT IN THE SPORTS QUOTES OF THE YEAR

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HAMMERS NEWS

MAGAZINE

FRANK LAMPARD MY FUTURE

IAN WRIGHT

SPORT

TIPSTER EDMONDSON DOES IT AGAIN P23 • THE WORLD CUP DISCARDS P20

Football: The 17th dismissal since Wenger took charge mars Gunners' advance into title contention
Arsenal's assault on summit**Kelly: 'I acted in interest of FA'**

BY STEVE TONGUE

Arsenal 3
Leeds United 1

ARSENAL yesterday offered an alternative view to their own manager's recent pessimistic prognostications by defeating the Premiership's form team and joining them in the top six.

A year to the week after his charges began an unbeaten run from a less promising position than their current one, which lasted four months and earned them the championship, Arsène Wenger has been casting doubts on their chances of finishing in the top three to earn another shot at the Champions' League. As David O'Leary, unlucky to lose by two goals on his return to Highbury for the first time as a fully fledged manager, put it: "Perhaps he's superstitious and has to say the same thing every year. He's very good with words."

Whether or not Wenger and his fellow countrymen know the word ideology, they are learning to practise it. The knack of remaining on the right side of English referees is proving more elusive; yesterday Gilles Grimandi became the fifth Arsenal player sent off this season - and the 17th since Wenger took over two years ago - when he pushed his head into Alan Smith's face only 15 minutes after coming on as a substitute.

By that time, just before the finish, Arsenal were in control for the first time. Even at 2-0 early in the second half, they looked vulnerable to Lee Bowyer's vigorous industry and the fierce shooting of Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink, who quickly halved the deficit. Only when Dennis Bergkamp, having scored the first goal, had contributed his second assist of the game by sending the outstanding Emmanuel Petit through were the champions in the clear.

They have now moved within four points of the joint leaders, Aston Villa, who play at Charlton tonight. Arsenal also visit The Valley next week, after entertaining West Ham, and a successful Christmas in the capital would set them up for a happy new year.

"It's more important at the moment that we concentrate on the way we play before speaking of the title," Wenger said. "We have to be realistic. After a few games, we'll see where we stand."

He admitted to being con-



Dennis Bergkamp scores Arsenal's first goal in their defeat of Leeds United at Highbury yesterday. The two teams are now equal on points

Ben Duffy

cerned early on at the way Bowyer and David Hopkin were man-marking Petit and Patrick Vieira in the centre of midfield, describing Bowyer as "a specialist at upsetting people". Although no player on the pitch was old enough to remember the physical battles between the two clubs 30 years ago, there seemed to be some keen to reenact them; Vieira had downed Hasselbaink painfully within 20 seconds and the young Leeds

defender Jonathan Woodgate was booked before two minutes had been played.

Woodgate was used as one of three centre-halfs as O'Leary changed his system to compensate for the loss of Lucas Radebe and David Batty. "I'd love to have come here with the full monty, a full team," he said. Those who were chosen sometimes seemed to be doing their own choreography of a move more associated with Arsenal,

stepping out in a straight line with arms raised.

It let them down for two of the three goals, starting in the 28th minute. David Hopkin had just side-footed feebly wide at the other end when Petit found Nicolas Anelka for a flicked header. Anelka was probably just offside, but the flag, unlike the defenders' arms, stayed down and Bergkamp ran on to beat Nigel Martyn.

Cleverly drifting slightly

deeper to elude the markers, Bergkamp went on to give his most influential performance for a while. Eight minutes into the second half he fed Vieira, who slid past Woodgate and scored his first goal of the season, low in the corner.

Leeds deserved better and Hasselbaink thundered them back into contention as Harry Kewell rolled back an inviting pass following another thrust by Bowyer. But as the game became

even more open, Arsenal finished the stronger. Marc Overmars side-footed straight at Martyn and Anelka pulled a shot wide before Nelson Vivas set up a classic counter-attack by winning the ball and feeding it to Bergkamp on the left. A delicious pass was met by Petit's fine finish, reminiscent of his coup de grâce in the World Cup final.

"They'll be there at the finish, don't worry about that," said O'Leary of his former club. His

new one may be slightly further away, but if they keep improving, not by much.

Goal scorers: Bergkamp (28) 1-0; Vieira (53) 2-0; Hasselbaink (68) 3-0. **Referee:** (21) Peter (21) 3-1. **Arsenal (4-4-2):** Mannering; Dixon, Bould, Keown, Vivas; Limberg (Grimandi, 72), Vieira, Petit, Overmars (Wood, 57); Bergkamp, Anelka. **Substitutes not used:** Bowyer, Martyn, Lusk (89). **Leeds United (3-5-2):** Martyn; Haslam, Mole, Hopkin (Hetherford, 44), Woodgate, Hays, Bowyer, Hopkin, Grimandi (Smith, 80), Harte, Howie, Hasselbaink. **Substitutes not used:** Sharpe, Maynard, Robinson (91). **Referee:** P. Dunn (Preston). **Scorers:** Arsenal: Grimandi, Bould, Anelka, Vieira, Bergkamp. Leeds: Woodgate, Hopkin, Harte. **Man of match:** Petit. **Attendance:** 38,025.

BY DAVID ANDERSON

GRAHAM KELLY, the former Football Association chief executive, stands by his decision to give the FA of Wales the £3.2m grant which cost him his job. Kelly insists he acted in the best interests of the FA and the campaign to stage the 2006 World Cup.

He admits that one reason for helping the FAW was to secure their support for the bid of the FA chairman, Keith Wiseman, to be Britain's Fifa vice-president, but claimed it was not a bribe.

"I went into it with very good intentions to seek to strengthen England's position in world football generally and in connection with the World Cup campaign," he told BBC Radio Five Live.

Wiseman, himself in peril after the FA's executive committee passed a vote of no confidence in him for his part in the affair, has claimed that leading figures in the game wanted Kelly out.

"Several people had been after Graham for some time," he alleged. "I'm not going to name names but various individuals at the top of the professional game wanted someone in place prepared to act as they wanted."

In spite of the vote of no confidence, Wiseman has refused to go and has instead vowed to fight to clear his name. His fate will be decided by the full FA Council when it meets on 4 January.

"As for myself I have done nothing wrong," Wiseman said. "I was acting in the FA's best interests and following accepted business practice and I want to clear my name of any hint of impropriety."

"The process followed to remove me was unconstitutional. The full FA council is the only body that has the right to remove the chairman. I intend to put the matter entirely in their hands," he added.

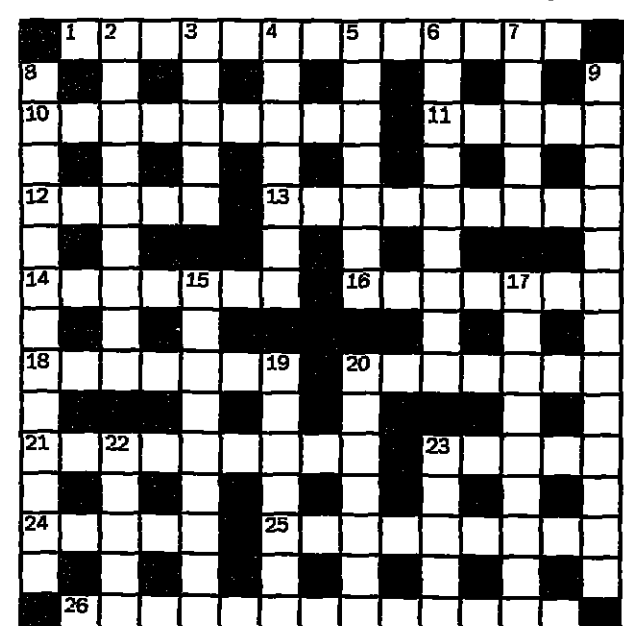
Wiseman admitted that recent events had been a huge strain. "The past few days have been horrendous for my wife and family," he said.

"I haven't been able to live in my own house and have been staying with friends. I've never had the remotest professional problem of any kind and to have that reputation put at risk by football issues is difficult to cope with."

THE MONDAY CROSSWORD

No.3799 Monday 21 December

by Esau



ACROSS
1 Route for Brits in NY area? Sent method to follow it (6,7)
10 Should one beam at speeding motorists? (5,4)
11 Chap going by main road doing U-turn... form of insanity (5)
12 Sally's fighting to keep hold of love (5)
13 Subject to excessive demands, that's clear-cut (9)
14 One graduate pal seen in Muslim leader's office (7)
16 Runner with promise recalled venue of failures (4,3)
18 Old laundry facility going west - however, Henry noticed (7)
20 Become breathless, taking in "nature" kind of show! (7)
21 I may mend comfy chairs for a convalescent (9)
23 8's responsibility (among others) said to be

DOWN
2 Road subject to favourable result of test (9)
3 Living in the distant past, like some peers? (5)
4 A certain Carol's main man given spiritual guidance (7)
5 What reporter may claim to have profound effect (7)
6 Thwart poor actors attempting to shed years (9)
7 Take over part of Afghanistan next? (5)
8 Parking illegally? That's fine by me! (7,6)
9 Rested certain acts, to make others behave? (3,4,3,3)
15 What sets off player bringing in one type of revenue? (9)
19 Way to discipline Aussie drivers in convoy (4,5)
19 Cockney's skint, influenced by a certain element? (7)
20 Left most of religious artwork in a colonnade (7)
22 Team working on English railway interchange (5)
23 They do global tours (5)

UK business travellers flying within Europe just announced their choice for Best Airline*. Many thanks.

*in Business Traveller Magazine

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swissair

Atherton at the double as Hick forces the pace

ONLY THREE hours' play were possible on the second day in Hobart as rain and drizzle swept in off the southern ocean. Yet if one day is enough to know everything, a theory once held by Fyodor Dostoevsky, a fraction is certainly enough to confirm long-held beliefs about Michael Atherton and Graeme Hick, who scored double and single centuries respectively.

The first thing that must be said is that the strike power of an Australian XI who were missing three front-line bowlers was not heavy-duty. But if Hick merely reinforced the view that he is a flat-track bully by marmalising the back-up bowlers to all parts of the ground and beyond, the fact that Atherton could not change gear in his chanceless and unbeaten 210 was equally corroborative.

In contrast to Hick, who tends to dominate a standard attack totally, Atherton has not the means to ride roughshod over inferior bowling. A batsman with a mid-size array of shots, Atherton's power comes not from his weight of stroke, which relies on timing anyway, but from his mental strength.

Total concentration is all he knows and it is the main reason why there is such a disparity between his performances for England and Lancashire. Unlike some, he cannot simply

CRICKET
BY DEREK PRINGLE
in Hobart

England 469-6 dec
Australian XI 30-0

drop a level and still compete favourably, which is why his 483-minute innings here, sons Paul Reiffel and co. still had a decent market value, something that could not immediately be said of Hick's run-a-ball 125.

Some similarities can be drawn, however, and both needed runs, though whether Hick can draw as much succour from the occasion as the acting captain will soon be tested on Boxing Day at the MCG.

Atherton, whose first double century this was, relishes his reputation for being perverse and the milestone came with an ungainly hack back over the bowler's head. Prior to that, and apart from some delightful cover-driven fours off Brendon

Julian, he had slowed to a crawl as he approached his previous career-best score of 199, made against Durham at Gateshead in 1992. In fact, in the time it took him to go from 194 to 198, Hick advanced his own score from 42 to 96 in a flurry of big hitting.

There was geographic interest in his feat, too, and there cannot be many grounds further apart than Gateshead and the Bellerive Oval in Hobart, on which to register your two highest first-class scores. It was a distance Hick clearly tried to cover as he launched Michael Bevan's left-arm wrist spin for huge successive sixes.

Dropped at midwicket by Stuart Law when he was 94, the brutality of Hick's second fifty, which took 28 balls, was at odds with the first, which was cautious and subdued and took 93. Perhaps Hick was trying to prove a point by showing Atherton he can whack it when he wants to: remember it was Atherton who declared on Hick.

Coming in to replace Hick, Belloke edged his first ball to the wicketkeeper, after Julian banged it in short. If there was a thought among the selectors that he might possibly bat at seven in the next Test, it will surely have been shelved.

in Sydney four years ago, when the batsman was on 98.

At one stage, Hick was treating the bowling as he might in a benefit match, which was ironic considering that one of the main reasons for the Aussie selectors picking a strong side was to make a point about the relative weakness of county opposition encountered when other countries tour England.

But if many were quietly smug at the way Australia's attempt to humiliate England further backfired, a glimpse of why they generally lord it over us came from one of the many substitute fielders, Nathan Webb. Just 17, he fielded superbly, taking two catches in the deep including the wicket of Hick, whose attempt at another six ended when he held a difficult, swirling catch at long-off.

If it is churlish to suggest that the equivalent ability does not exist in England, it would be hard to imagine a 17-year-old looking quite at home as Webb did. Ben Hollis, four years older than him, certainly did not, the Surrey all-rounder recording his second duck in four days.

Umpires: S G Davies and P Parker.

HOBART SCOREBOARD

Second day, England won toss
ENGLAND - First innings
Overseas: 288 for 3
M A Atherton not out 210
G A Hick c sub to Bevan 125
B C Hollies c Giffen to Julian 9
I W Hogg c sub to Bevan 4
Extras (lb2, nb5) 13
Total (for 6, 11 overs) 469
Fall: 1-57, 2-125, 3-265, 4-460, 5-460, 6-460
Did not bat: D G Coor, A J Tudor, A R C Fraser, P M Such
Bowling: Hasprovicz 18 3-2-67-0 Ret. 1, 3-4-4-0, Julian 32 4-98-1, Blevett

24-2-73-1, Law 21-4-84-1, Bevan 23-1-3-94-3, Elliott 5-0-34-0, Lehmann 1-0-10-0
AUSTRALIA XI - First innings
M Y G Elliott not out 14
G S Blevett not out 11
Extras (lb2, nb5) 10
Total (for 6, 11 overs) 30
To bat: C I Richards, D S Lehmann, S G Law, M G Bevan, A C Giffen, P P Reiffel, B P Julian, M S Hasprovicz, G R Robertson
Bowling: Tudor 6-3-12-0, Fraser 5-2-16-0

صلى الله عليه وسلم

MONDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

Diana was trash,
homosexuality is an
illness, love's a fallacy:
Quentin Crisp is
approaching his
naughty 90th birthday,
but he's lost none
of his sauce

Old Spice

To survive at all was an adventure. To reach old age was a miracle. So wrote Quentin Crisp in his autobiography 30 years ago, when he was not even an old-age pensioner. What exclamatory words are left to describe the fact that this Christmas Day Quentin Crisp will not only be 90 years old, but will open that night in a new one-man show on Broadway? Mind-boggling? Unnatural? Creepy? Or does it simply bear out his belief that there is no such thing as long-term bad luck?

Quentin Crisp was only 58 years old when I first met him in a West End café, but he came across even then as a figure of faded, cobwebby grandeur, already making jokes about being old, saying, "At the end of the run, you can overact outrageously". I remember he wore silver sandals with high heels, women's slacks and a great deal of make-up. His pale-blue dyed hair was piled up into those starry, buoyant waves that innumerable feature writers were soon to struggle to describe. His face looked both male and female, noble and ignoble, depraved and imperious. In recent times, I have spotted in the ageing Baroness Thatcher some of Quentin Crisp's outrageous haughtiness.

By the time I met him, Quentin Crisp had already had an extraordinary existence. The precise details of his self-inflicted martyrdom slowly became apparent. Born the wettest of weaklings, he had been an impossible child and a monstrous show-off. Perpetually suicidal and ill-equipped for living, he was unemployable, unfit even to make tea - "I would have made a bad boy," he says.

In his early twenties, he worked briefly as a male prostitute, but was no good at this either. Then, suddenly, he took several steps over the brink and became a self-evident homosexual, "a terrible painted figure prancing the streets", who was kicked, spat at and beaten up. "Nothing can describe the hatred and the terror and the trouble that I caused," he later told one of his many interviewers.

The bedsitter in Beaufort Street, Chelsea, where Quentin had lived since the summer of 1940, was a revelation. His joke about the dust not getting any worse after a few years has long since found its way into various dictionaries of quotations. The poet Philip O'Connor spoke of "that infernal kitchen" and Crisp himself boasted that his home was "a kind of curtained-raiser for *The Rocky Horror Show*". It was here that he lived off a food substitute called Complan, recharged his batteries and, in his own words, was his "horrible self".

Bare-footed and clad in a dressing gown shiny with grease, which barely covered his buttocks, he also welcomed all callers with great zest. "Rush in, sit down," he might say, then: "Flopp about on the bed." Visitors might be offered "a cup of pale grey coffee" or "some old toast".

I found Quentin happy to talk for hours there, elevating or demoting his circle of acquaintances to a sort of village gentility or obscurity by never using their first names. He talked about a certain Mr Flipcroft, a Miss Lumley "who can do no wrong", a Miss Miller "who has the nerve to teach art appreciation". Whenever I left, Quentin would run down the stairs like a 10-year-old, turn on the hall light and bid me: "Call again. Incessantly." These were catch-phrases he used for everybody. Over the years I called on Quentin Crisp frequently, if not incessantly, and watched as he became famous.

His first step into the limelight came with the publication in 1968 of his autobiography, *The Naked Civil Servant*. This was widely praised and reviewed, going briefly into the bestseller list, but it did not have any effect on his life, other than producing a regular stream of anonymous telephone calls - his number has always been listed - which he described with some relish as "appointments with fear".

When the film of his book was broadcast in December 1973, with John Hurt requiring five different wigs to play the title role, these calls became more urgent. Almost overnight, Quentin Crisp became a cult figure, "the mother superior of homosexuality" and much else besides. Taxi drivers who had once refused to carry him now asked for his autograph. Quentin took this all very calmly - "I expect to be forgotten soon," he told me. No such luck. In January 1978, Quentin Crisp opened in his one-man show at the Duke of York's Theatre in London, lecturing his packed audience about style with only a bentwood chair and a hatstand for company on

stage. After great success, the show transferred to the Ambassador's Theatre. One person asked for their money back. Quentin paid up immediately.

Anyway, he now had other plans. "I can't go on appearing at the Ambassador's forever," he muttered, perhaps fearing a run of *Mousetrap* proportions. The previous autumn, he had not only been abroad for the first time in his life, he had been to New York, where *The Naked Civil Servant* had been shown on television. He now wanted to live there for ever - "In America, everyone is your friend". At the age of 72, he left England for good, acquiring the room on Manhattan's Lower East Side where he has now lived for 17 long, dark years.

I have seen little of him during this period, but have occasionally spoken to him on the telephone, which he still answers with the long drawn-out words, "Oh - yes?" instead of "Hello".

In 1991, he wrote to me saying, "I am now so old that I spend half my time asleep", but this has actually been a time of great industry and expansion. Quentin Crisp has appeared frequently on television. He has done his one-man show across America. He has lectured on four cruise ships and appeared in cinema adverts for Calvin Klein perfume and Levi's jeans. He played Elizabeth the First in Sally Potter's film of Virginia Woolf's *Orlando* with remarkable tenderness and restraint.

Last month, I telephoned him at his room on East 3rd Street and we arranged to meet. Somewhat disconcerted by a recent photograph in which the be-

hatted Mr Crisp looked like a little old witch, I did not know what to expect. What do 89-year-old men look like? Would I find a stick insect?

In the event, it was his feet and legs that I saw first as he descended the stairs of his building to let me in. For a worrying moment I thought that Quentin Crisp, the great stylist, had graduated to the leisure-wear and trainers beloved by octogenarians across the western world. But, no - Quentin was properly dressed in grey flannels and a tailored grey worsted jacket that I later discovered had been given to him by the supermodel Lauren Hutton. He was smaller, portlier, but his great beehive of back-combed white hair was as impressive as ever.

His room knocks his old place in Beaufort Street into a cocked hat. It's smaller to start with and, instead of having windows looking on to a leafy London street, there is only the darkened well of the building to contemplate. It is more like a disused workshop than a bedroom, clogged with possessions, coated with grime. Bottles of make-up, fixative, medicine and, thank God, a bottle of champagne, hog the floor along with a discarded shirt.

Quentin Crisp once said of the dirt in his London room: "It's just a question of keeping your nerve." To survive in his current abode must require nerves of steel, iron and flint. And he also has to

BY ANDREW BARROW

cope with the horrified reactions of friends who do not understand his lifestyle. Three times the police have been called, and once he was dragged off to hospital though there was nothing wrong with him.

Indeed, as Quentin settled on the bed and I took the only chair, so close to him that our knees kept touching, I reflected that he looks extraordinarily well. He wears less make-up than in the past. He has the actor's ability to turn it on. His gestures are deft and unhesitant. His head twists attentively and his voice is as full-throated as ever.

And so are his views. He continues to hate Oscar Wilde and Visconti's films, especially *Death in Venice*. His recent statement that Princess Diana was "trash" and "got what she deserved" generated letters telling him he was "a bitter, lonely old queen".

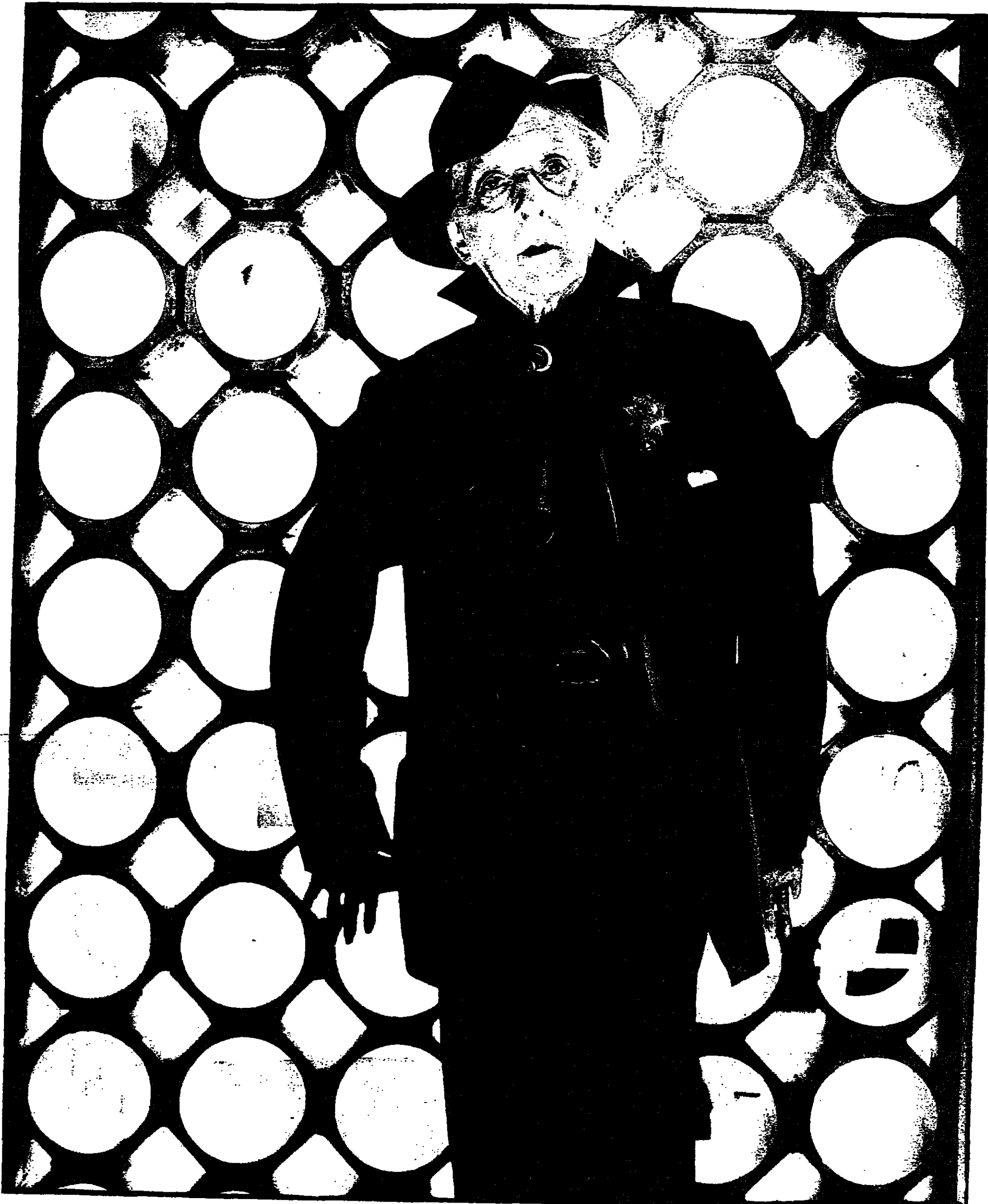
Quentin's chilly relationship with the gay community is another thorny and long-standing issue. He looks upon homosexuality as an illness and homosexuals as an inferior breed. Some time ago, he upset a Chicago audience by saying that the "obsession" with AIDS was a "fad". In America, he says, he has angered gay people but been accepted by "real" people. "And anyway," he adds with some bemusement, "it's now been explained to me that I'm not a homosexual. I'm a trans-something."

Quentin Crisp has been described as "icily unsentimental". On stage and in private, he rarely says the word "love" without giving it a mocking twang. Most people, he claims, are in perpetual torment about their relationships. He isn't. For him the idea

of having a best friend or any kind of hierarchy of friendship has always been abhorrent. I have known Quentin Crisp for 32 years but I do not feel any closer to him, or less intimate, than when we first met. "Love of everybody" is one of his abiding aims. "If love means anything at all, it means extending your hand to the unlovable," he says, giving an eerie significance to the fact that his birthday falls on the same day as the founder of the Christian religion. I did not ask him about the link, but I had not been long in his Lower East Side room before he was quoting from Saint Teresa of Avila: "We must treat all people as at least better than ourselves." Crisp's own blueprint for happiness is never to envy the lot of other people.

On 25 December, Quentin Crisp steps on to the stage of the Intar theatre on 42nd Street and, for the following six weeks, will "cast about for something to make the audience squeak". He will tell them how to be happy. He will also, no doubt, talk about death. His own death. He has been talking about his death since I first met him. "When it all ends," he'd say, "I'll get into my coffin and I'll sleep." Suicide has always attracted him - "The last graceful flourish of someone whose style has been completely mastered" - but it might not provide the "significant death" he yearns for. Last month, he declared, "It would be nice to be murdered". Whatever one makes of this claim, it would provide another spooky connection with his fellow birthday boy.

Deborah Ross is on holiday



Barry J Holmes/Katz

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Dealing with Iraq

Sir: Your editorial (18 December) poses the question, "How else do we deal with this dictator?"

Hasn't history taught us that the very best way to undermine dictatorships is to build as many links as we can with such countries, not close them down as we have done with Iraq? This has helped keep Saddam in power.

The Berlin wall was not only to keep people in but ideas out. We need to repair the damage with Iraq, both physical but also psychological. Drop the sanctions and invade the country with our influence; win the people over with contact with the West on all levels; not with bombs.

Such contact would be assisted by free trade and open borders and would be the greatest threat that Saddam could face.

In the short term, allow the Arab nations, with appropriate assistance (that they should and can pay for), to contain Iraq. We have enough needs at home on which to use the resources expended on damaging Iraq.

BOB GOODALL
St Albans, Hertfordshire

Sir: Supporters of the air strikes on Iraq who demand that opponents spell out their "alternative" to bombing have missed the point of the whole debate.

First, it is not for the governments of the United States and Britain to decide the best way to "deal with" Saddam Hussein. These governments have not been elected global policemen by the peoples of the world. Their mandate for military action in the Middle East rests solely on imperial presumption.

Second, Iraq is not the only country with the capability of manufacturing weapons of mass destruction, nor is it the only country ruled by a repressive dictatorship, nor is it the only country currently in violation of UN resolutions. The very people who now tell us there is no alternative to bombing are the same ones who throw up their hands in impotence when confronted with violations of UN resolutions by Israel in regard to the Palestinians, by UNITA in Angola, and by Indonesia in East Timor.

Third, there is ample reason to believe that the "problem" which we are told we must deal with is in fact a contrived pretext for military action. Former chief UN weapons inspector Scott Ritter has been quoted as saying, "What Richard Butler did last week with the inspections was a set up... This was designed to generate a conflict that would justify a bombing."

MIKE MARQUESE
London N1

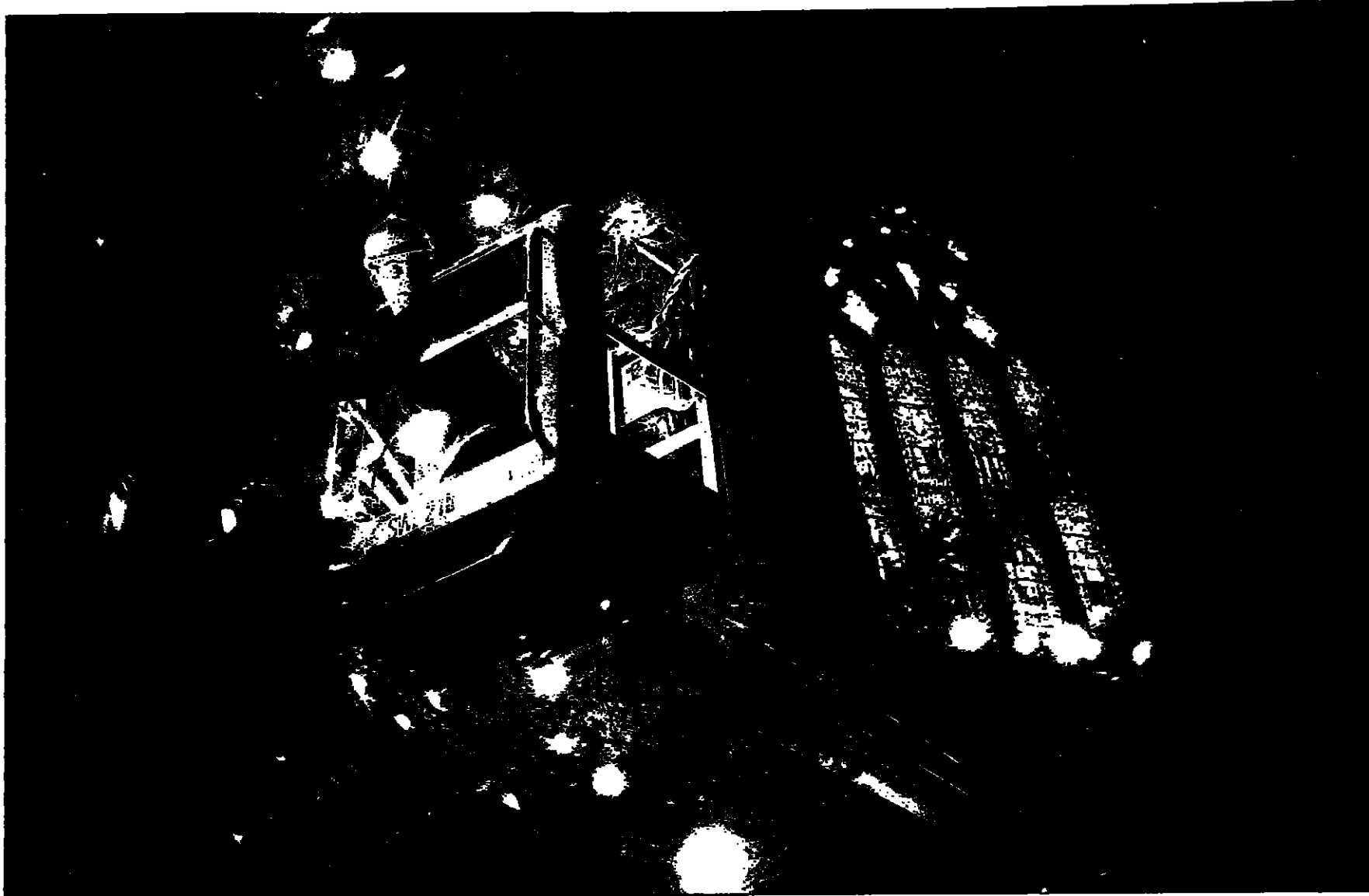
Sir: Your report (12 December) about the way the sanctions on Iraq enable Saddam Hussein to maintain control over his people highlights one aspect of the adverse effects of the sanctions. More generally, sanctions, which have caused the death of between half a million and a million people according to informed sources, enable Saddam Hussein to portray the West as the enemies of the Iraqi people, strengthening his hold on the country. We believe that sanctions should be ended and the West should flood Iraq with food and medicines. As well as reducing the appalling suffering, this could reduce Saddam's grip on Iraq.

Most people recognise that it is never going to be possible to eliminate all weapons of mass destruction by technical means and inspection alone. Thus it is important to reduce the causes of conflict. Ending the sanctions would help to reduce the potential for hatred of the West by the Iraqis and other Arab and Muslim peoples. Whereas a massive military attack on Iraq could destabilise the Middle East, we believe a positive approach to the Iraqi people could help bring stability.

MARTIN QUICK
Chair
Architects and Engineers for Social Responsibility
Stroud, Gloucestershire

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.



Dressing the Cathedral No 1: Peter Hotine threads 60m of cable through the 42-foot Christmas tree in Ely cathedral

Brian Harris

Sir: America is doing through the thin veil of the UN what it has done to Cuba and Vietnam over the last 30 years. If it cannot win a war in a conventional manner (because it never "broke" Iraq), it will economically suppress that country indefinitely.

If it wants to use weapons of mass destruction as an excuse, why doesn't it bomb Pakistan, India or China? Dr P CONNOLLY
Halstead, Essex

Sir: The 1997 "Islamophobia Report" of the Runnymede Trust read in part: "At the time of the 1991 Gulf War, West Yorkshire police noted a 100-per-cent increase in racist attacks in Bradford, and a 58-per-cent increase in West Yorkshire as a whole."

The pattern has been repeated at every conflict since. It does not seem to matter to racists that Britons whose families originate in south Asia (or even Iraq) have no connection with the ruling clique in Iraq. In fact some of those attacked in Bradford were Hindus, and not Muslims. Already, three UK mosques have been attacked in the last two days.

We hope journalists, as well as extremists among British Muslims and elsewhere, will not inflame people of violence to attack Asians, especially Muslims, in this country. Dr RICHARD STONE
Chair Runnymede Commission
Rabbi ABRAHAM LEVY
Maimonides Foundation
KHAWAR QURESHI
Imam Dr ABDULJALIL SAJID
Colonus Foundation
London W1

TV religion

Sir: Recently I wrote to you about the complete lack of Christmas Day worship on BBC television (letter, 12 December). I seem to have touched a nerve, for the story has received considerable coverage in national newspapers and on radio and television. The only response I have had from the BBC so far has been a "with compliments" slip.

I am beginning to think that the cause of the malaise at the BBC is that its corporate thinking is dominated by fear. The superficial fear is about a "ratings war", but there may be a deeper fear which its treatment of religion symbolises. Perhaps it no longer has the confidence to deal with religious concepts of death or eternity or mercy or human meaning. It seems bewildered not only about religious matters but also about its own corporate purpose.

The BBC is a very significant part of our national life and needs to discover what the potential and purpose of public service broadcasting should be in the new millennium. Preoccupation with ratings and marginalisation of religion are the signs that confidence is seriously lacking.

When will the necessary public debate begin? CHRISTOPHER ST ALBANS
(The Right Rev Christopher Herbert, Bishop of St Albans)
St Albans, Hertfordshire

Sir: Having just returned from a month's visit to Nigeria and having seen for myself the tragic mess that that once prosperous country has been reduced to by its military dictators, I believe it would be an act of wanton cruelty to deport Ben James there ("Banker loses his battle to stay", 15 December). After his long residency in Britain, a country he now sees as his own and to which he has contributed much through his business activities, for the Court of Appeal to treat him as if he were guilty of criminality is utterly distasteful. VINCENT F BUTLER
Edinburgh

Sir: The omission of the discovery of penicillin from the New Millennium Experience Company's highlights of the last 1,000 years seems incredible ("Millennium

Sir: Andreas Whittam Smith's apology for current BBC editorial policy as it affects the churches (Comment, 14 December) misses the point. The issue is not how to cater for paid-up parish members. They have accepted the physical inconvenience of live attendance at church. What is missing on Christmas Day, and what is reduced at many other times, is religion and related concerns as an ingredient in the cultural diet of people for whom belonging to Christian institutions is of doubtful relevance - but who like to retain a vestigial sympathy and link.

Incarnation - god as man, man as god - is a dramatic idea. A television service to mark the idea on the day which is still called Christmas should not be in question.

The point isn't "selling" Christianity or pushing messages. Christianity in Britain is close to the core traditions of the people. But folk memory needs to be refreshed - and associated with

various aspects of culture and thought in ways that television and radio can manage effectively and helpfully. It is a pity religion has been pushed into a ghetto by those in charge of the media. Christianity does not need yet more pulpits to preach to the converted. That is what "Christian" television and radio stations do. It is the general diet which needs appropriate religious ingredients to prevent it becoming even more impoverished.

Why do enormous numbers of non-Christian or vaguely Christian parents opt to send their children to "church" schools? What that means is ignored by the BBC. TOM SUTCLIFFE
London SW16

Software that is PC

Sir: The main thrust of Eva Pascoe's article about open source software (Network, 14 December) appears to be a sort of anti-Microsoft crusade. Proponents of

the Linux operating system (and for that matter Apple Mac users) seem to be almost fanatical in their devotion. There is a certain cachet in using a product which is non-mainstream. You become the new techno-warrior, and not some Redmond clone.

The main benefits touted by Ms Pascoe for using open source software appear to be that it is a Bill Gates-free desktop; that the "guys from Redmond" won't get their "bounty"; that Microsoft is operating a monopoly from which only cyber-heroes such as the comic-reading ex-hacker, Jamie Zovinsky, and other "legends" can save us.

This all misses the point. People running mission-critical applications in heterogeneous environments buy products which are based on standards and will integrate well with their existing products, which will scale well and support a larger user base, which are reliable and for which there is a high level of skills available to provide support.

The main problem with Linux is just that people do modify it. There is no standard version. Developers need to produce different versions of their applications - one for Linux on a Sun, one for the PC version and so on.

There is nothing wrong with people developing code and distributing it to their friends, colleagues and like-minded folk on the Net and, in all likelihood, this will have a positive effect on the industry; but to state that all such software is inherently better than anything developed by the evil empire in Redmond is nonsense.

Even if open source software were technically better, which in the case of Linux is highly debatable, a product with wider acceptance is more important to corporate users. History is littered with products which were arguably better, but never took off. Anyone got any Betamax movies I can borrow? ANDREW WARREN
Castle Douglas, Dumfries and Galloway

mono-clonal antibodies (letter, 18 December). In the UK, the mouse was the animal almost invariably used for this purpose. However, in a November 1997 statement, the government announced that the use of mice to produce mono-clonal antibodies would no longer be allowed unless exceptional justification could be provided. In vitro methods of production are to be used instead. CHRISTINE ORR
British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection
London N7

Sir: May I add to Donald Foreman's list of the achievements of the Duke of Cambridge (letter, 16 December)? He was so shocked by the playing of military bands that he founded the School of Army Music. CAROLYN BECKINGHAM
Leaves, East Sussex

IN BRIEF

defined by a sandwich", 17 December). Alexander Fleming's discovery and its development by Howard Florey and Ernst Chain revolutionised medicine and affected for the better the lives of every one of us. It began the antibiotic age in medicine which has saved countless lives. It is a sad reflection on those organising the millennium celebrations that they should rate the sandwich a higher achievement. KEVIN BROWN
Trust Archivist and Curator
Alexander Fleming Laboratory
Museum
London W2

Sir: Dr Hillman asserts that there is no substitute for a living organism in the production of

Every lame, sitting and dead duck will have its day

I HAVE received many letters on the subject of our bombing raids on Iraq, with an interesting range of viewpoints, and I have decided to print some of them here today.

From General Sir Nigel Curmudgeon MC
Sir: Am I the only one who finds the spectacle of Tony Blair following in Bill Clinton's wake, rather like the little page boy following Good King Wenceslas, a bit nauseating? If we must try and settle Saddam's hash, surely we should not duck our responsibilities but have the courage to go in there and bomb the hell out of Baghdad without waiting for the Americans to join in? The sight of Tony Blair trotting along like Clinton's poodle is enough to make your blood boil. Yours etc

From Mrs Noreen Dempster
Sir: As past president of the Poodle Society of Great Britain, I take great exception to the imputation of the preceding letter that a poodle is a weak-minded, copycat of a dog. The poodle is loyal, yes, but also independent, brave, intelligent and anything but a milkop. I do not know how the poodle ever got the reputation of being a lame duck, but I resent the way it has become a general Aunt Sally. Let us have an end to it - or at least make fun of some other dog for a while! Yours etc

From Mrs Sally Wagstaff
Sir: Here we go again. I refer, of course, to the phrase used in the preceding letter, namely "Aunt Sally". I have gone through my life grinding my teeth with fury at the

image of this name as some sort of sitting duck for general target practice. It is high time it ceased. I have had it up to here with people saying "Aunt Sally", which not only suggests that Sally is a silly name but also that all Sallies are amny-ish. I am young and pretty so the phrase "Aunt Sally" makes me feel a bit schizophrenic sometimes. Yours etc

From Mr Dick Norman
Sir: I cannot believe that someone who is so sensitive about her name can be so insensitive about the use of the word "schizophrenic". For heaven's sake, do people still think that "schizophrenic" means "having a split personality"? Schizophrenia is a complex mental state which takes various forms, but split personality is not one of them.



MILES KINGTON
The sight of Tony Blair trotting along like Clinton's poodle makes the blood boil

Let me assure you that the old idea of schizophrenia is a dead duck. Yours etc

From Dr Ben Salamander
Sir: I feel I cannot resist acting in my capacity as a keen ornithologist and pointing out that in every letter you have printed so far there has been a calculated insult to my favourite bird, the duck. Duck responsibilities... lame duck... sitting duck... dead duck... All the old clichés have been trotted out - I am surprised that nobody has yet used "out for a duck" - and all at the expense of the good old duck. But why? The duck is a handsome creature. It is loyal, fiercely intelligent, faithful and obedient to its master, and also tastes jolly good in orange sauce. Let us have no more of these gubbins. Yours etc

From Mr Solomon Gubbins
Sir: I have long ago given up try-

ing to work out why the word "gubbins" is synonymous with "mess" or "dog's dinner". Nobody in this world has the surname Mess or Dog's Dinner, but some of us are blessed with the name Gubbins and some of us are sick to death of this constant misuse of our monicker. Gubbins is a grand old Lincolnshire name meaning "gooseherd" or "if it isn't, it jolly well should be, and if other Gubbinses are too lily-livered to stand up and defend their grand old name, then I am not. Yours etc

From Mrs Lily Leadwell
Sir: I think you can probably guess why I am writing to you in white-hot fury. Yes, it's that word "lily-livered". Oh, Mr Gubbins may get hot under the collar when he hears the word "gubbins", and he is en-

titled, but for him then to utter the word "lily-livered" without qualms is beyond the pale. Why link the lily and cowardice? The lily is a not only a lovely flower but is also fiercely loyal, brave, intelligent and obedient. Let us have no more of this. Yours etc

From Mrs Dora Williams
Sir: As my name suggests, I am Welsh, and one of the things I cannot abide is the use of the phrase "to Welsh on someone". This phrase has not been used by anyone in any of these letters, but I thought I would write in and say this anyway. Call me over-sensitive if you like. Everyone else does. Yours etc

Thanks for the letters. I am sorry I did not have space for more.

سكرا من الازهر

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He should go. He won't go. And we'll be the worse for it

THE FIRST casualty of America's impeachment crisis is Tony Blair. As Bill Clinton hunkered down in Washington, Britain's Prime Minister came on ever more strongly in London as the military "victor" in the battle against Iraq. It is a triumphalism he will have cause to regret. The bombing of Saddam Hussein was almost certainly not determined by Clinton's woes; but the high rhetoric of war and danger uttered while the Americans - with the British in tow - unleashed their might on Iraq night after night, was little more than obscene.

"Politics has become a substitute for violence," said Vice-President Al Gore on the White House lawn in fury after the impeachment vote. But whatever politics has become, violence is still unsubstituted - at least so far as the West "punishing" a Third World country is concerned.

But then it is the sheer unreality of events that has marked more than anything else the events of the last four days; the gap between the grave words of war and the arms-length, fully televised bombardment that followed; the distance between the magnitude of impeachment and the offence of philandering. To the politicians concerned, this may seem the most important, the most historic moment of their lives: Blair in his war bunker, and the Republicans taking over the articles of impeachment to the Senate. To the public at large, however, it has all the elements of boys playing games.

It is the gap between political reality and public perception which may well be the most important aspect of these events. Of course, there are real reasons for impeaching the President, just as there are real reasons for trying to destroy Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction. The reality is that a US president in the eyes of the majority of people in Congress has lied under oath and acted to pervert the course of justice, however sordidly irrelevant the actual case.

It is all very well for Clinton's supporters to go on about how partisan has been the occasion, and how personalised. It has been partisan, in the very worst possible way. And it has displayed a personal loathing of President Clinton that is beyond any fair or reasonable manner of conducting affairs. But then politics in America has always been passionately partisan. The last president to be impeached, Andrew Johnson, was tried by the Senate on entirely political grounds. It has been a myth of Reagan and now Clinton - to talk of consensus and "pulling together". Politics is about power and when power is up for grabs - as it always is in the final term of a president and even more so when that President has opened his flank for the attack - then the politics will get rougher.

Clinton's fault in these terms has not been to be too liberal, nor even that he sinned, but to have given the



impression that he didn't mind too much about it all. Given half a chance, he would bolt for the door and be up to his old tricks again as soon as no one was looking. The Republicans are determined that will not happen. Instead of encouraging censure as a painful lesson, Clinton's supporters have promoted it as a means of escape. And that, on present mood, the Congressional majority will not allow.

All this need not worry the US voter too much. America is a country of peculiar balances of power and unique resilience. It can survive a period of high temperatures in Washington without overheating in Kansas. Even Clinton - who in real policy terms has achieved remarkably little during his six years in office - could probably stumble on another two years continuing to do little more, shamed but not ashamed.

The world, however, will find it rather more difficult to cope not only with a passive America but one whose president is maimed and whose relations with the political establishment is so poisoned that he can deliver nothing

but the occasional jabs of his military. It shouldn't be so, but the end of the Cold War and the shifts in economic fortune have left the international scene in an unusual vacuum. American leadership, or at least the provision of American muscle, is needed.

The Middle East is the obvious example. Clinton's visit to the region to try and revive the dying peace process was marred from the start by his troubles at home. If it was not for those troubles, he would probably never have tried it. The superimposition of the Iraqi crisis, coincident although it was, has only made that failure the worse. While Clinton and Blair have talked of containment, the rest of the Middle East has simply seen further evidence of Arab humiliation and powerlessness before the West. The allies, said Tony Blair at the beginning, had no choice but to respond once Saddam Hussein had deliberately cocked a snook at the inspectorate and made a mockery of his promises of a few months ago. But even accepting this, which we shouldn't, "no

choice" is the very worst route of politics, still more of war. The lesson of this - and the lesson that Blair seems so reluctant to understand - is that the vacuum of international politics has to be filled by international institutions. The result of the bombardment of Iraq has been a diminution of the UN. Blair has been left alone on a stage which should never have been held by a duet in the first place. As Clinton has failed at home, so Blair's divorce from the rest of the world and the ridiculousness of Britain's position as America's mercenary has seemed more glaring.

As for Clinton, one can only despair. The very character - his buoyancy - that makes him determined to fight on is the very character that means his enemies will not rest until they have finished him. It's almost impossible to see compromise in these circumstances, or any conclusion that does not bear the seeds of its own poison. He should resign. He won't resign. The world will be the worse for it, and Blair the littler.

Invitation to a beheading for the politicians of the next century

WHY ARE politicians, Clinton most dramatically among them, regarded with such contempt? In most opinion polls they vie with journalists for bottom place in public esteem. Journalists I can understand, but politicians? After all, there are only two ways of resolving conflict. One is through armed force and we see the grim consequences of that in Iraq. The other is through politicians with conflicting views manoeuvring, intriguing, manipulating and debating in order to win arguments.

I restate what Basil Fawley would call "a statement of the bleeding obvious" because there is a follow-up that should be as equally "bleeding obvious": if practising the art of politics is a much better way of resolving disputes than military might, we need the best political leaders we can get. Pretty damned obvious isn't it? In which case, why do we impose conditions on the lives of political leaders that would deter all but the most driven or unhinged?

As we head towards the Millennium, a president of the United States has been impeached for an office fling. The British Foreign Secretary awaits nervously the publication of a book by his former wife, fearing that any revelations about his past private life will be splashed across every front page. His colleague, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, awaits with a similar trepidation the appearance of his biography written by a hostile journalist with a sharp instinct for news stories, having already been touted for a trip to Rio de Janeiro and "outed" live on *News*

night. The former Secretary of State for Wales licks his wounds, his political career in ruins after an excursion on Clapham Common. The Minister for Agriculture recovers from the ordeal of making a public statement confessing that he is gay. Several junior ministers fear it will be their turn next. What century are we living in?

Aspiring young Americans watching the humiliation of Clinton, ageing visibly before our eyes, will surely think twice about entering politics. The argument that justifies his persecution at the hand of desperate Republicans is that impeachment has nothing to do with sex and everything to do with perjury. In which case, how was it that Clinton was ever asked in court about his sex life? What a bizarre legal system which allows such questions to be posed to a president when his infidelities had no relevance to the breaking of any law. That is just the legal dimension. For the rest of the time, a president is placed on a pedestal only to be forced to dance humiliatingly to the discordant tunes of Congress. Clinton, a better president than the farce in Washington and the ill-thought-out attacks on Iraq suggest, does not deserve this.

In Britain the humiliations of those we elect take a different, but equally perverse, form. Unlike American presidents, governments are given virtually untrammelled power. Mad policies such as the poll tax can reach the statute books without any great political tremors (the tremors come only once the mad policies take effect, by which time it is too late); entire tiers of government can be abolished at the



STEVE RICHARDS

Why do we impose such conditions on politicians' lives that deter all but the most driven or unhinged?

whim of centralising prime ministers such as Margaret Thatcher; anti-terrorist legislation likely to have no practical effect on catching terrorists can be rushed through Parliament in two days, as happened last September; and a Commons debate on Iraq can be held without a vote being allowed at the end - but if a minister is caught on Clapham Common, there is uproar. And which business leader would accept an invitation to join the Government having seen Geoffrey Robinson, repeatedly, and Lord Simon, sporadically, being portrayed as crooks after taking unpaid, unglamorous junior ministerial posts?

The legislators should be given a hard time for bad legislation, not for their private lives. Maybe then Britain would get better politicians and better policies.

This is not to argue that politicians should be treated uncritically; far from it. This government with its large majority; intolerance of dissent and weak opposition needs to be subjected to the most intense scrutiny at all times, including when its expensive bombs (paid for by "the people's money") are heading for Iraq. The same applies in the US. Clinton's mendacity cried out to be exposed and punished. But some sense of proportion should also be retained. The lies have been exposed. Clinton has been punished and humiliated for months. Enough; he should be allowed to finish his term as the voters now wish and as they wanted when they re-elected him.

Of course some politicians merit the sneering cynicism with which they are viewed. There are bastards in politics as in any profession. But it is also true that many politicians could be earning infinitely more money in other jobs. At which point spare a thought, if you can face it so close to Christmas, for members of the Shadow Cabinet. I was not surprised to read the other day that John Redwood was contemplating leaving politics for a well-paid job elsewhere. Certainly his former adviser, Hywell Williams, told him to pack it in and make more money in the private sector after his leadership bid failed last year. I do not want to turn Redwood or Michael Howard into unlikely romantic heroes. Given the raw material, I would not succeed if I tried. Nor is there any need to shed a tear about their parlous financial states. But it should be noted that they are

staying on in opposition, knowing almost certainly that they will not taste power again, heading towards retirement issuing unread press releases. In October 1997, I asked Redwood why he was staying on.

"There has to be an opposition. Someone's got to do it," he said.

They are doing their duty and - unlike Labour in the early 1980s when most of the Shadow Cabinet seemed to be having a ball as the party headed towards oblivion - they do not even look as if they are enjoying it. There were also many Labour frontbenchers who could have earned much more elsewhere in the 1980s but stayed on in what many of them thought would be a forlorn attempt to revive their party.

With the media so vast and the opportunities in business so great, politics already faces immense competition for talent. Ken Livingstone observed after the Thatcherite assault on local government that anyone who wished to become a councillor should see a psychiatrist. As a president faces a trial in the Senate and politicians in Britain live in fear of some infidelity or other being exposed, how many bright young things are going to opt for national politics in the new century? If the future crop of national politicians do not impress, we voters are largely to blame. We get the politicians we deserve. If we want better ones, we should never forget that the alternative to their manoeuvring is the resolution of dispute through battle. A rowdy debate in the Commons is an infinitely more pleasing spectacle than the rubble of a bombed building in Baghdad.

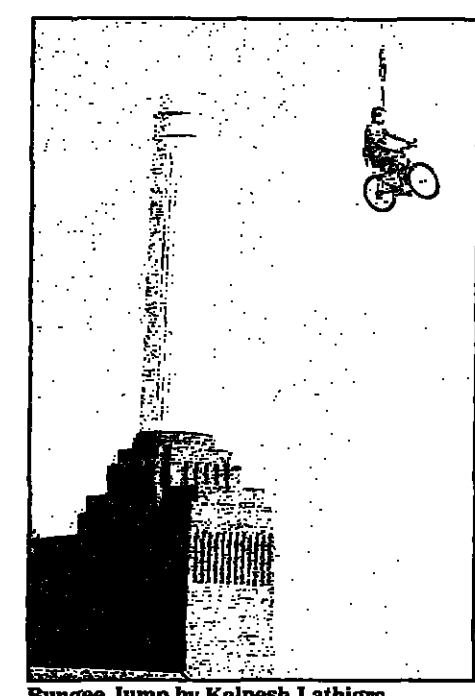
QUOTE OF THE DAY

"What we have done is to put him back firmly in the cage and secure it."
Tony Blair, on Saddam Hussein

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"I have been told I was on the road to hell, but I had no idea it was just a mile down the road with a dome on it."
Abraham Lincoln, 16th President of the United States

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Bungee Jump by Kalpesh Lathigra
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MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

British press reaction to the impeachment of President Clinton by the US Congress

IN THE end, the issue is about the constitutional implications of resignation, and whether it is warranted by the seriousness of Clinton's offence. American voters have made their views clear on this - they want neither resignation nor impeachment.

Unless and until that changes, Clinton should stay on.
The Observer

CLINTON HAS lost the credibility he might have earned for other aspects of his presiden-

cy and is no longer fit to lead the Western world. The Republican Speaker-elect, Bob Livingston, showed him the way to go when he resigned from the House of Representatives (over) his extra-marital affair. It is time to show Bill the door, and say hello to Gore.
News of the World

THE CRUDE Republican attempt to kick Mr Clinton out of office is particularly outrageous at this time of international cri-

sis. He has faced a trial rigged on party lines by right-wingers determined to drive him out of the presidency. Most (ordinary Americans) think he is doing a good job - and that far out-

weighs his affair with a young woman in the White House.
Sunday Mirror

THOSE WHO still seek to defend [Clinton] on the grounds that

he should not have been impeached because of hanky-panky with an employee young enough to be his daughter totally miss the point. It is about America's chief law enforcement officer solemnly swearing to protect the country's system of law - then lying before a Federal Grand Jury and obstructing justice.
The Mail on Sunday

MANY PEOPLE... forget that America's authority in the world depends on more than its physical strength. The integrity of the man in the Oval Office matters as much, and Mr Clinton has been found wanting. If he survives a Senate trial, many will believe he has been allowed to mock the constitution he is charged to uphold. Unlikely that it is, Mr Clinton should go quietly before he inflicts further damage on his country, and allows Saddam the last, hollow laugh.
The Sunday Times

PANDORA

IN A Commons debate on "competitiveness" last Wednesday, the nation's greatest living spin-doctor, DIT minister Peter Mandelson, was stunned by an Allen Force described by Mandelson himself later as "extra-planetary". Can anyone provide Pandora with a translation of Tory MP John Redwood's following statement: "Is the e-envoy in addition to the digital envoy announced a short while ago? Will those two gentlemen or ladies be in competition, or has the digital envoy been abolished before being approved, only to be replaced by the putative e-envoy? The whole thing is risible and muddled." Anyone have a Vulcan dictionary handy?

AS THE joyous Christmas television festival descends upon us, Pandora offers readers a few "must-see" tips. On Christmas Day, during *Before They Were Famous III* on BBC 1, don't miss the clip in which schoolboy David Beckham is shown juggling a football in front of a bunch of seated lads until he accidentally makes contact with one of their heads. Presenter Angus Deayton chimes in with: "David later claimed he never made contact with the lad, but if we carefully examine the video evidence I think we can see that he did." Isn't that hilarious? And if your sides aren't already split beyond repair, tune in on Boxing Day to BBC 2's profile "Are You Watching Jimmy Hill?" in which Terry Venables describes walking across the pitch with Jimmy at an Everton vs Liverpool match. The crowd began to chant "Jimmy Hill's a wanker, Jimmy Hill's a..." And what did Jimmy say? "They love me here." Oh yes, you'll laugh till you cry.

Is James Brown (pictured, in laddish days) beginning to show signs of strain? In *The Times* last Friday, the ex-editor of *Loaded* and now pin-striped editor of *GQ* declared that "to

partake in the GQ lifestyle" it's not necessary to be wealthy or upperclass - "you just have to feel that you could rob a bank". It's to be hoped this won't be necessary, but the ex-New Lad certainly has a struggle on his hands. The magazine's total ABC news-trade sales figures for the period January-June 1997, just before Brown's arrival, were 111,547. The most recent figures, January-June 1998, were 104,481.

TAKI'S DIGNIFIED announcement in the current *Spectator* that he is to leave these shores - "I crap on cowardly pygmies like Cook, Mandelson and Straw, and will give up my British residence as soon as Palazzo Taki is ready in February" - threatens to cast the nation into mourning. In the meantime, news reaches Pandora of a triumph scored at a recent New York luncheon party by the astute Greek political and ethical commentator. While brandishing his cheque book, the lion-hearted Taki managed to face down such celebrity dwarves as novelist Norman Mailer, writer Gay Talese, actor Michael Douglas, *Vanity Fair* editor Graydon Carter and Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist David Halberstam - all of whom lacked the courage to accept the Greek's political betting proposition. And what was the wager? Taki wanted to bet that Bill Clinton would not be impeached.

NOT LONG ago media luminary Janet Street-Porter sparkily regaled executives at an Institute of Sales Promotion lunch about her latest television commercial. She reported that she had been rewarded with £35,000 and an original Alexander McQueen dress from entertainment group ONdigital. The thrust of the ad took advantage of Janet's unique place in the public's affection, with her saying to camera: "Hello, I know you don't like me, but now you have a choice." Unfortunately, when Pandora finally reached Janet to discuss this original marketing ploy, Ms Street-Porter was not in her usual beneficent mood. "Stop harassing me," she rasped. "You're really irritating me. Go ahead and write what you like. I don't ever call back. I don't want to be in diaries." So it will be, darling.



An actor damned by his creation



STEVEN BERKOFF

Theatre can be a great restorer, the baptismal river where your sins are washed off

ANTHONY HOPKINS, who last week covered the tabloids with statements that acting was driving him to a nervous breakdown and that he was giving it up to preserve his sanity, is a highly gifted film and stage actor, particularly in film where he famously demonstrates a rare talent for analysis of character. He peels back the skin of his roles, not unlike Hannibal Lecter, and pours himself inside them. He cannot, as many players do, stand outside and kick their character around and be unaffected. No matter how successful *Silence of the Lambs* was, how clever his creation, it is possible that he may feel sullied and even damned by it.

If in my modest career I have been frequently singled out for a particular performance in some old Hollywood caper, how much more must Hopkins's ears be assaulted by fans who have now relegated the man's entire career to a sicko-movie freak. Eventually you become who the public think you are, unless you are bolstered by a vital and supportive social structure, or have alternative means of re-identifying yourself, by taking up the reins of

production and selecting your own material. By his own admission Hopkins is a loner, preferring his own company, which is the prerogative of many hyper-creative and raw artists, but then he has no wedge of human flesh as a protective wall between him and the world.

Acting *per se* does not make you mad, necessarily, unless you feel that you have vitiated your power or

corrupted your talents. Hopkins certainly hasn't done this to anything like the extent of his saner inferiors who wallow from junk to junk seemingly unaffected. However, these actors are not burdened with Hopkins's finer perceptions. Madness is directly linked to forcing a highly developed ego to swallow garbage. The more delicate the system, the more aggressive the sickness.

Monroe started to lose herself, as did Montgomery Clift, and a dozen more who were force-fed with the mulch that their talents had grown out of and were not strong enough to withstand. The actor is unique in a sense that the material used is his own body and soul. This makes him extraordinarily vulnerable. However, vulnerability can illuminate a character that the actor believes in and feels pride in serving. Conversely, humiliation can send an actor into a wobble, where the shame can only be anaesthetised by alcohol injection.

Madness for actors is par for the course. However, most great actors are extremely sane. They may suffer from hyper-awareness, having stretched their radar systems, since

after a while, the scanner cannot be easily switched off. Obsessions, compulsions and perfectionism become a few of the many psychic disturbances that we are prone to. Some of us have managed to balance an acting life with writing or directing, thus the child becomes a parent able to create for others.

While theatre can be stress-making, a great and demanding making, a great and demanding role can be liberating and purging - an opportunity to vent all shades of emotion, including those of madness in the service of the character. This has a purgative effect. Since theatre usually deals with language in a heightened form, the roles you are playing are likely to enhance rather than deflate or humiliate.

You cannot feel shame playing Lear, Hamlet, Macbeth or Chekov. You might feel pride, be heartened, even ennobled and believe yourself to be an emissary of literature, a communicator or a teacher. An intelligent audience confirms you as their guide - their Prometheus carrying the fire of inspiration. A bunch of spotty popcorn eaters slurping Pepsi and watching *Silence of the Lambs* is not likely to do that, but

[Hopkins's role in] *Remains of the Day* was a perfect performance any actor would have been proud of for years.

Nevertheless, without wishing to bang the luvvie drum, theatre for an actor can be a great restorer; the baptismal river where your sins are washed off. That's why many a movie actor who was stage-trained likes to return to the font as a means of recovering their ego. There an actor's skill, sensitivity and power is tested to the limit and thus the personality re-identifies itself. Madness is a form of alienation from the soul.

And if I'm not mistaken, it was the theatre that helped restore Hopkins's career when he returned after years of Hollywood drift. At 60, Sir Anthony appears to be an actor in peak condition - maybe the answer is to have an occasional theatrical restorative. Olivier was still playing Othello at 60 and then Edgar in *Dance of Death* - a very suitable role for Hopkins. One of the good things about theatre is that it gives you a little time to dwell on your madness, but a great opportunity to use it.

Nothing has felt quite right about the attacks on Iraq



ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH

Why were Saddam's neighbours not urging us on, providing help and rejoicing in our success?

WAS THERE large-scale rejoicing yesterday after the Prime Minister's announcement that the aims of military action against Iraq had been achieved, and within four days, and with no allied casualties? Of course not. The reaction has been one of mild relief, no jubilation, no satisfaction taken from a job well done. The reason is that nothing that has happened since bombing began on Wednesday night has felt quite right.

To begin with, it didn't feel quite right that President Clinton should launch the attack just before the House of Representatives was due to debate his impeachment. In a democracy, the leader needs moral authority to wage war and to risk the lives of members of the armed forces. Indeed the President of the United States is also America's Commander-in-Chief. Yet immediately after Mr Clinton's statement, the majority leader in the Senate, Trent Lott, said: "I cannot support this military action in the Gulf at this time." This turning of the back, by the senior member of the Republican Party, when American troops were risking their lives, was astonishing. By then it was too late for Tony Blair to withdraw, but was he not bewildered when he saw the patriotic Republican Party disown the Commander-in-Chief?

Nor was the report by the United Nations' inspectors in Iraq, whose negative findings on the government's level of compliance was the immediate cause of Anglo-American retaliation, as widely accepted as one would expect. President Clinton gave their account an effective spin - instead of the inspectors disarming Saddam, Saddam had disarmed the inspectors - but the UN secretary general, Kofi Annan, described Iraqi compliance as a "mixed picture" that falls short of "full cooperation". In fact the so-called

Unscorn report does not predict an emergency. It merely refers to routine violations.

Curious, too, was the reaction of the supposed beneficiaries of the bombing of Iraq, the neighbouring countries of the Middle East. The President and the Prime Minister said that Saddam must not be allowed to threaten his neighbours with nuclear weapons, poison gas or biological weapons. Indeed not. But why, then, were the neighbours not urging us on, providing all the help they could and rejoicing in our success? Mr Blair implies that they secretly harbour these emotions but dare not express them. We are to think of them as profoundly but silently thankful.

This is possible. On the other hand, the silence may be because the overriding feeling of Iraq's neighbours is repugnance at the sight of nations from what is seen as the Christian, colonialist West assaulting a Muslim, Arab country, what-

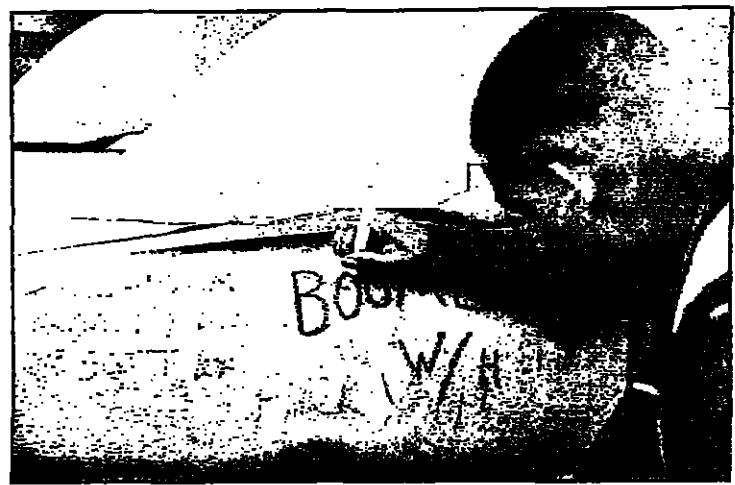
ever its faults. In which case, one wonders what we are doing there.

We used to be told that intervention was necessary to protect our oil supplies. Now that there is a glut - so that even last week the oil price continued to fall - this is no longer put forward as a reason.

Instead, we are asked to consider a more general point. While other countries possess weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles, with Saddam there is one big difference - he has used them, not once but repeatedly. Left unchecked, Saddam will use these terrible weapons again. This is a proposition with seeming power. It implies that the international community cannot and should not tolerate murderous dictators holding such weapons. Except that three members of the five permanent members of the Security Council - France, Russia and China - do not agree that Saddam is such a worrying case. Nor do we receive any support worth having from our European partners. Germany's backing is tepid to the point of meaninglessness. The rest are silent. The moral case receives no support from other countries like ourselves.

This is very peculiar. One explanation would be that our European neighbours do not believe that Saddam's Iraq is such a terrible threat. They note that of Saddam's 950 short- and medium-range missiles that he had acquired before 1991, all have been found and destroyed. Thus he lacks conventional means of projecting chemical or biological material beyond his borders.

An alternative interpretation is that France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the rest simply do not believe in the efficacy of aerial assault. The snatches of film of bombs hitting their targets which the Ministry of Defence shows every day are not



A US airman writes a 'goodwill' message on a missile EPA

convincing. We have no idea whether the target has been correctly identified or whether it contains what it is said to contain. Did we destroy any Republican Guards, or "special" Republican Guards or the "drones of death" as the Secretary of State, George Robertson, calls the unmanned aircraft which Saddam is supposed to be constructing?

Likewise we are asked to believe that Saddam can only maintain his power by using a "command and control" system and this we have severely damaged. But in the past, dictators have generally got along without such sophisticated communications networks.

It may also be the case that our neighbours' withholding of support is explained by their embarrassment. For they see American policy as cruel and counter-productive. Cruel because some Iraqi civilians have undoubtedly been killed or injured during the past few days, and cruel because the policy of economic sanctions has reduced Iraq to a state of malnutrition and disease. As Robert Fisk reported on Fri-

day, Dennis Halliday, who ran the UN oil-for-food programme in Baghdad, resigned when he realised that thousands of Iraqi children were dying every month because of sanctions. He commented: "We are in the process of destroying an entire society... it is illegal and immoral."

And counter-productive, because dictators often generate loyalty by standing up to and fighting a wicked external enemy, the Great Satan in some form or other. On this reading, Saddam will have been delighted by Anglo-American resolve to maintain sanctions and patrol the Gulf. Not so much "Oh, what a lovely war!" but "Oh, what a lovely enemy!"

It has been a strange few days for this country. We really need to understand why we received scarcely any backing from countries with whom we have much in common, and whose leaders and citizens are in constant touch with us. What do they perceive which we do not? What have we understood which they have failed to comprehend? What is the meaning of this episode, where nothing rings true?

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Protectionism may follow the euro

THE ADVOCACY of European integration has gained much from its alliance with the free trade doctrine derived from Ricardo, and which proved such a powerful intellectual weapon in the 19th century. Even before the creation of the European Economic Community, the European Payments Union was designed to facilitate trade. Then the Economic Community itself had as one of its major initial objectives the removal of tariffs between the members. Although this was strikingly - and speedily successful - it soon became apparent that "non-tariff barriers" - meaning, principally, product quality and safety regulation - were imposing costs in trade of the same type as tariffs previously had.

Thus the Internal Market Programme, or the "1992 Project" as it came to be known, was devised to remove these barriers as well. Monetary Union should be seen as a further step along this road in two respects. First, the removal of transactions costs in trade eliminates one further barrier. But second, it has become commonplace in Continental

Europe to argue that the completion of the internal market makes monetary union urgent because in its absence, countries are likely to seek to use exchange rate depreciations to increase their export market. Thus, exchange rate protection is seen to be the new threat, once non-tariff barriers have been removed. The same basic argument is applied to the Social Chapter, and most recently to tax harmonisation.

One can hardly fail to be impressed by these developments in Europe. The achievement of such a high degree of free trade is impressive in its own right and - at least from a certain perspective - one must be impressed by the depth of integration which has proven so welcome to much of the Continent. However, the outlook for free trade may not be so positive. On the course on which the European Union is heading, it is in danger of playing into the hands of protectionist elements. This is by no means exclusively a consequence of monetary union, but it is significantly so, and the dangers of a substantial move towards protectionism grow as integration deepens. Nor is



PODIUM

JAMES FORDER
From the annual
Politica Lecture by the
economist at 2 Carlton
House Terrace,
Pall Mall, London

there anything uniquely European in the dangers. Nation states are subject to many of the same pressures, but I believe the European Union is poorly placed to deal with them, and consequently, more likely to be susceptible to them.

The history of European integration reveals that the member states continue to perceive an interest in protectionism. In the celebrations that attended the success of the

1992 Project's removal of non-tariff barriers, a question rarely asked was why such a programme was necessary. Or alternatively, why had non-tariff barriers not been removed along with tariff barriers in the early 1960s, if they were agreed to be equivalent in their effects? The answer is that non-tariff barriers only became a substantial problem after the removal of tariffs. It does not take much imagination to see that they also became a problem because of the removal of tariffs. The problem was that the means of protection (tariffs) had been removed, but the motives for it (whatever precisely they may be) had not.

So it should be recognised that the creation of the Customs Union - although surely desirable - operated in part in the manner of treating symptoms. The underlying causes of protection remained.

Europe has been blighted by unemployment throughout the 1980s and 1990s. The causes of this can be argued about. One popular view is that a "rigidity" of labour markets is to blame. I find it difficult to take that seriously since the extent to which any European labour

market is more rigid now than in the 1960s must be very limited. An alternative explanation is that the policy framework adopted by most countries early in the 1980s, and subsequently written into the Maastricht Treaty, has done more or less permanent damage to labour markets - and such excessive concern with inflation is to be avoided in future.

Whatever the explanation of unemployment, however, one cannot escape the fact that it creates the political circumstances which are favourable to protectionism. In recent years, most of Continental Europe has been heading towards monetary union, and in most countries this has been a popular objective. Political elites have succeeded in arguing that the pain of the Maastricht process must be endured in order for the prize to be won.

Well, the prize is about to be won, and it will certainly result in a quick fall in unemployment. It remains to be seen what the popular reaction to this will be, but it is difficult to rule out a great deal of pressure for protectionism to safeguard jobs and create new ones.

Fairy lights and surgical strikes



JOHN WALSH
Who can see the vivid tracer-fire and not think of it as our gift of Christmas illuminations to Saddam?

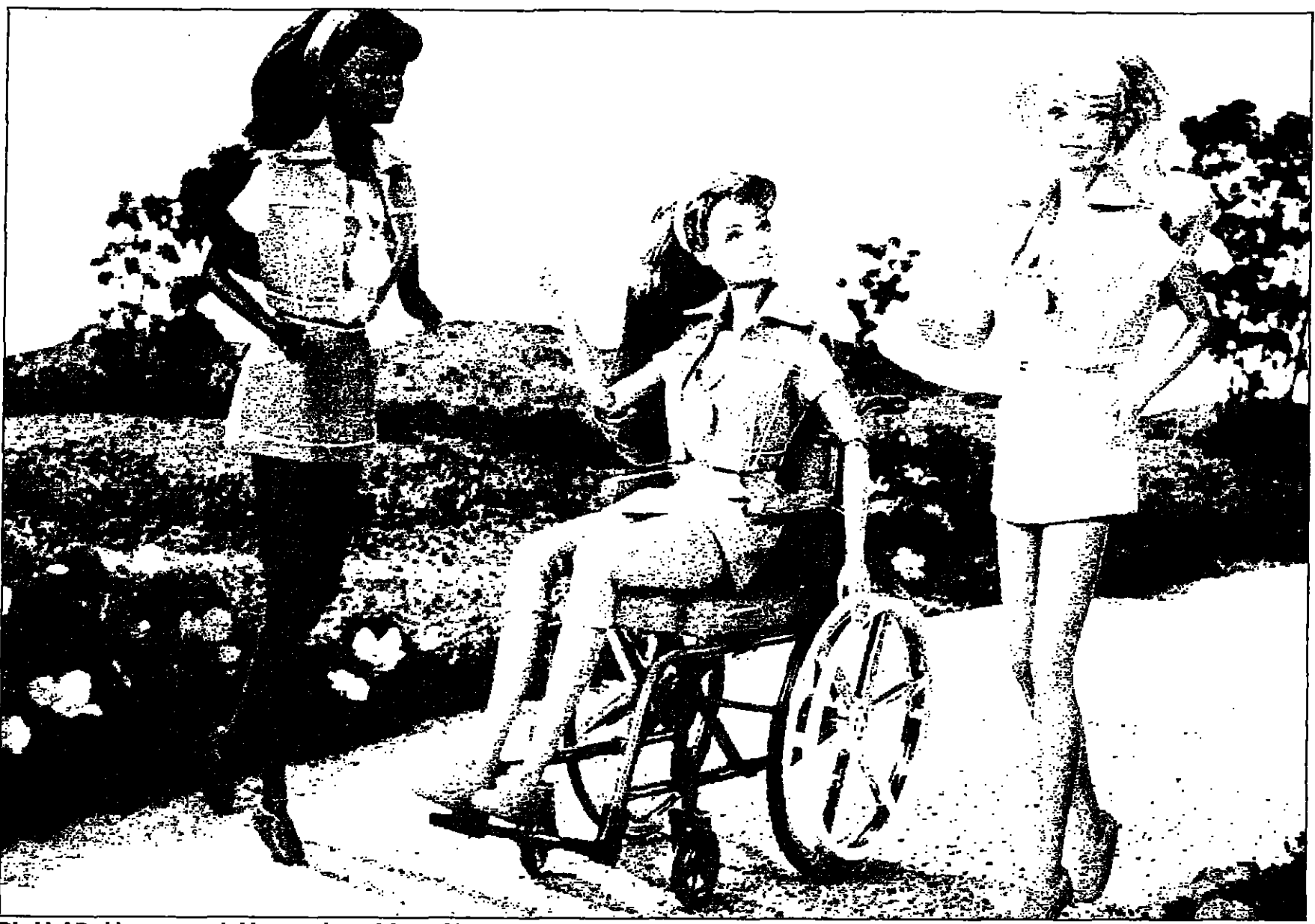
"SHE CHANGES her expression/ And puts on smy-ull/ Baby Expressions." trill the children as we thread our way through the crush in Hamleys. They are singing an advertising jingle off the telly. Baby Expressions is apparently a new doll of mercurial disposition whose face successively radiates fear, loathing, suspicion, hatred, depression and wind while your children are playing with it. Despite its violent mood-swings (which, if it were a real kid, would make you suspect it of being on drugs), it's what Clementine, aged three, most wants for Christmas.

I try to explain to her that a doll is not supposed to have an emotional range; that it is a neutral template upon which to project certain role-playing emotions of one's own; that it is merely a plastic homunculus created to encourage an infant's child-rearing instincts. Clementine regards me steadily. She is obviously impressed by my confident grasp of toy psychology. Then she sticks out her quivering lower lip like an okapi and her blue eyes fill with tears.

"But it's nice," she cries, as stubborn as Saddam Hussein in Violet Elizabeth Bott ringtones. My otherwise charming daughter has suddenly turned into Baby Expressions (though without the smy-ull) and frankly, they deserve each other.

She's also keen on Dentist Barbie, the latest incarnation of the slender plastic dreamboat who (a tiny disclaimer on the cardboard packaging advises you) "cannot stand up unaided". We have all, I think, been out with girls like that. I'm just surprised at this new turn in her restless professional career. After being a doctor, a policewoman and an Olympic skier, she's now eschewed the more modern options of Spin Doctor Barbie (those boring Armani suits would never do) and PR Executive Barbie (too many hairs, real and metaphorical) and plumped for dentistry, which gives her the chance to wear a gleaming white uniform and wield a little battery of probes and mouthwash glasses.

Dolls apart, Christmas shopping has been a learning curve of nomenclature. I have schlepped the streets like the Ancient Mariner asking strangers if they've heard of the Nerf Eagle-Eye, a gun of spectacular proportions upon which my son's festive equilibrium depends. Ignorant as a yule log when it comes to computer games, I've caught up with the Play Station empire at last and its excitable personnel - like Crash Bandicoot, a name Mervyn Peake would have been proud to invent. Until last week, the bandicoot was an insectivorous and herbivorous marsupial of the genus - game; its names derives, I need hardly remind you, from the Telegu word



Disabled Barbie, accompanied by two others of the Barbie range, might make a topical Christmas gift

pandikolou meaning "pig-rat". Well forget that. It now has a new global identity as a hyperactive cartoon rat who rides around on motor bikes looking for jewels and blasting anyone who gets in the way.

And there's that other word. Along Regent Street, the overhead illuminations inform the children that Christmas is the season to be "Tango'd". What does it mean, Dad? It means, my dears, that the point of the festive season is apparently for its celebrants to become intoxicated with fizzy orange drinks. Can this be true? Four years ago, when the Christmas lights featured characters from *Aladdin* to advertise the newly-released Disney movie, I rang the Association of Oxford Street Shop-owners to ask how they'd allowed it to happen.

"But *Aladdin* is terribly Christmassy," the lady PR said.

"Madam," I replied coldly, "*Aladdin* is from *The Arabian Nights*, a book of Persian fairy tales translated into Arabic in AD 850. It's about as Christmassy as the Sphinx."

"Oh," she said, roguishly, "but, you know, Widow Twankey and all that."

The fact that Disney had handed over a colossal wedge of cash for letting the Genie gatecrash the crib, as it were, wasn't mentioned. And now we shake our heads about the Tango sponsorship as if it weren't the natural consequence of commercial spon-

sorship. In my view, we should simply congratulate whichever marketing genius was responsible for ensuring that nobody will ever utter the name "Tango" again without a grimace of distaste.

BUT AS one races around town, getting and spending, noting with amusement this gross innovation, that amusing toy, everything seems to turn into a mirror of the events in the Middle East. You don't have to be a connection-hungry poet to find awful correspondences between trivial matters here and terrible events there. Who can look at the vivid tracer-fire, the after-burners of missiles and the crimson striations in the night sky over Baghdad and not think of them as our present of Christmas illuminations to the back-sliding infidel?

Look at the face of five-year-old Susan Jasin in a Baghdad hospital with her head swathed in muslin and it's clear: 'tis the season to be bandaged. After the PM's assurances about the Iraqi leader's continued demonic intentions, Saddam Hussein becomes a mustachioed Crash Bandicoot, hunting down the sacred jewels of oil and land. Listen to the US Chief of Staff's lectures about the surgical precision of cruise missiles and an image lodges in your head of a juvenile war-monger at the Pentagon,

his thumbs working away at a Play Station console, sending 200 Tomahawks across a TV screen and marvelling at the realism of the destruction that ensues. Just trying to buy a Nerf Eagle-Eye gun fills your head with that endless mantra: "weapons of mass destruction". You can't, any more, tell the lady from the Oxford Street Association that the Arab world is nothing to do with Christmas when your dinner-party companions speculate whether bombing the Middle East during Ramadan would be the equivalent of their bombing us during the Queen's Speech. Even when they decided to cease the raids at the weekend, it felt as if we were just waiting for the next build-up, the next inspection-team report, the next presidential phone call. It will probably take about a year. We can do this all over again as a seasonal chore, like pulling the Christmas tree lights out of their box in the attic.

In his address to the nation on Friday, Saddam Hussein thanked the early-warning-system technologists who anticipated the first wave of US missiles, and called them "the grandchildren of Zargara al-Yamama", a famous Iraqi seer who could see things at a great distance. So could Nostradamus, who prophesied that Armageddon would fall at the end of the second millennium. I've never known a more unsettling time to be sending greetings

cards invoking "peace on earth, goodwill to all men", when the TV is hiccupping with threats, and the rumble of B-52 bombers punctuates the *Nine O'Clock News*.

THE CHRISTMAS spirit does not, apparently, work overtime. Four days ago, I ordered the turkey and smoked ham from Hester's, the marvellous bespoke butcher's shop beside Vauxhall Gardens. The boss and I exchanged badinage. He reminisced about the biggest turkey that had ever passed through his hands - 69lbs, he said, and the only oven large enough to take it was the ancestral furnace at Westminster's Children Hospital. I bought some sausage meat with chestnuts. He threw in some chipolatas. We couldn't have been friendlier. It was a Pickwickian scene to gladden the heart.

"Goodbye," he said at last, "and in case I don't see you again, merry Christmas."

"But we'll see each other next week," I replied, "when I come to pick the bird up."

The butcher looked at me sadly.

"By Tuesday it'll be chaos in 'ere: 15lb turkeys all over the place. We'll all be far too growly to be nice to customers."

So, in the same tradition of curmudgeonly realism - before things get too fraught and snappish in the land of deadlines, happy Christmas to all in Readerland.

RIGHT OF REPLY

HAROLD W RUBIN

A London gallery owner responds to Tom Lubbock's 'Critical Condition' article on the state of the visual arts in Tuesday's *Independent*

AS A London gallery owner, I should be qualified to answer Tom Lubbock's article on criticism. I have designed numerous galleries, I have been a curator and I am (once again) a dealer. I own many works of art. However, I am not rich, nor have many of the persons to whom I have sold art been rich, unless, in the words of Bernard Barruch, "being rich is having a dollar more than you can spend".

What Mr Lubbock has done is to compound the myth and misunderstanding about how and why art is exhibited and who is concerned with it. No, very rarely will a review help to sell much of the art it discusses. Taking his premise further, I know that it would be cheaper and less work if I dealt privately and avoided having a gallery open to the public. My desire for his review or that of others is for the artist's sake. Many artists whose work I have shown are more anxious for that word than for the sales which might help support them financially. Time after time I have to explain how hard I have tried to make contact and been ignored. At last there has been some explanation as to how the chosen ones are selected.

Admittedly, there are so many galleries and so many artists that getting a few words in print is doubtless as rare as winning the Lottery. The purpose of an exhibition is that an artist will see and evaluate his own work in having it arranged together in an environment other than his own workshop.

I know from experience how the work will change and develop after such a showing. One painter answered the question of who he painted for with: "Myself and 12 friends." Could a critic's role be that of helping find those friends as his contribution and responsibility?

Every so often one sees or hears of a neophyte visitor who wakes to an awareness he has never experienced before when looking at an exhibition. It is nice to encourage these souls.

In search of Christian values

AS ALAN Wilkinson reports in the penultimate chapter of *Christian Socialism*, surveys show that the Prime Minister's Christian commitment is one of the best known facts about him. This book is written to describe and evaluate the distinctively socialist strand of Christian social concern, which goes back in this country to the early days of the 19th century.

I encountered this tradition when it was at its most publicly influential, in the middle of the Second World War. As a boy of 17, I attended the much-reported 1942 meeting in the Albert Hall when Archbishop Temple and Sir Stafford Cripps launched an overtly Christian campaign for moral and social renewal after the war. In that same year Temple, as Archbishop of Canterbury, published a Penguin Special on Christianity and the social order. It sold 139,000 copies and was re-published in 1976 with a foreword by Sir Edward Heath. Temple said that the widespread sales were because "everyone is planning the good world which we hope to see when the war is over".

At the end of the war, while still serving in the army in India, I also was looking forward to this "good world" when Attlee was elected Labour prime minister. I rejoiced in the opportunity to implement the Beveridge Report, and to carry



MONDAY BOOKS

CHRISTIAN SOCIALISM: SCOTT HOLLAND TO TONY BLAIR
BY ALAN WILKINSON. SCM PRESS, £14.95
THE NEW POLITICS: CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING FOR THE 21ST CENTURY
EDITED BY PAUL VALLEY. SCM PRESS, £14.95

forward a vision of social organisation related to Christian and humanist understanding of community and mutually responsible citizenship.

Beveridge attended Balliol College, Oxford, at the beginning of this century with William Temple and the noted Christian socialist teacher and writer RH Tawney. Tawney made a notable (though critical, for he was no utopian) contribution to Christian socialist thought in a series of books such as *The Acquisitive Society*, *Equality*, and the classic *Religion and the Rise of Capitalism*. The public and political influence of this Balliol trio was at its height in that post-war enthusiasm, which I shared, for Christian socialism and a welfare state. Since then, much has changed. As reported by Wilkinson, in the

1980s I found myself confronting Thatcherism for its idolatrous belief in the free market and its offensive refusal to face the task of providing effective transitional care for the victims of capitalism's "creative gales of destruction" (even if that destruction was necessary, and in the long run hopeful). Wilkinson locates all this in an interesting and detailed account of the many-stranded developments of Christian socialism in the UK. He is wisely critical, prudentially concerned with a proper assessment of some aspects of Victorian values and the values of the market, reasonably doubtful about some aspects of New Labour, and with a sharp eye for the romantic Utopian tendencies in much Christian social thought.

He also reports some quotable remarks, of which my favourite is that of the Reverend Samuel Barnett, who founded Toynbee Hall in the East End in 1884. He argued that the state should help make society more equal by redistributive taxation. Barnett was wont to remark: "God loveth a cheerful tax-payer." Clearly a text to be commended to Messrs Blair and Brown.

In *The New Politics*, Paul Valley has edited a competent account of the social teachings of the Popes, from Leo XIII in 1891 to John Paul II's seven documents between 1979 and 1995. The editor contributes a stimulating survey by way of introduction, a strong concluding chapter on "John Paul II and The New Millennium", and an epilogue "Towards a New Politics - Catholic social teaching in a pluralist society".



Church-goer Tony Blair

David Rose

versally shareable, and realistically hopeful, values. In between are chapters moving chronologically through the papal writings from six experienced writers, including the director of CAFOD on "Looking out on the World's Poor" the director of the Catholic Institute for International Relations on "People before Profit" and Clifford Longley on "Structures of sin and the free market". Taken together, they build into a remarkably sustained argument for an authoritative approach to social problems.

Alas, they do not settle the issue of how any religious body or person can claim to be right on vital issues when all churches and their representatives have obviously been wrong in the past on aspects of thinking, morals and actions. But both books highlight the fact that we Christians have something vital both to say, and to live up to. They challenge Christians to contribute more effectively to keeping our 21st-century world open to a sustainable, shareable and hopeful future.

DAVID JENKINS

The reviewer was Bishop of Durham, 1984-1994

MONDAY POEM

CALAIS
BY GLYN MAXWELL

They tin-opened his head.
Apparently it said
CALAIS across his brain
in red. Which should explain
the puzzlement and pain
and focus that he felt,
that afternoon he smelt
its fuel-and-fishy air,
then mull'd it over in a square

like one whom little girls
untasselling their hair
in French and combing it to curls
adore when he's thirteen.

who wonders what on earth they mean
and guesses and is wrong,
goes pink and carries on,
finds the ferry gone.

Our poems until 8 January come from the 10 volumes shortlisted for this year's TS Eliot Prize, to be announced on 11 January. Glyn Maxwell's 'The Breakage' is published by Faber (£7.99)

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Thomas in his uniform as Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, House of Lords (1992-95)

Admiral Sir Richard Thomas

RICHARD THOMAS joined the Royal Navy in 1951, when its distillation and digestion of the lessons of the Second World War were being interrupted by Korea. He left it 40 years later as the Cold War was ending.

The Cod Wars were the nearest he got to actual hostility, but he had a full, interesting and rewarding career, within the service for most of the time, but latterly as its representative – and that of the UK – in two key Nato posts. When he retired, he had the good fortune that another career, shorter but no less rewarding, was waiting for him at the Palace of Westminster.

The son of a naval officer, Thomas joined the Navy from Downside. He lived the rest of his life very much in accordance with the tenets of its teaching. He was one of the happiest husbands and fathers; his entry in *Who's Who* testifies that his only recreation was his family. He was soon at sea in the old *Illustrations*, of Taranto fame but by 1951 the Home Fleet training carrier, and then in another veteran of wartime building, the cruiser *Gambica*.

Five years into his career, he started his professional acquaintance with the world outside the Navy as Flag Lieutenant to the Commander-in-Chief of the old East Indies station. Then came a succession of small ship appointments – navigator of a frigate (*Eastbourne*), watchkeeper in a destroyer (*Crossbow*), command of a landing ship (*Gutierrez*), and still a Lieutenant, a coastal minesweeper (*Wolverton*).

Then in 1962 came the benchmark of an appointment to HMS *Britannia*. An early tendency to acerbity and impatience had disappeared with years and experience, and an especially distinguished execution of his duties as second in command of the frigate *Tribble* led to swift promotion to Commander and to the command of the destroyer *Troubridge* (1966-68).

This had been a good start to a career, with an abundance of sea time, but Thomas's next three appointments, i.e. the remaining six years in the normal zone for promotion to Captain, were all to be spent largely ashore. The deployment and training of seaman ratings kept him

busy – there were 12,000 of them in those days, and he made some improvements to the system.

Then came a stint on the staff of the Flag Officer Flotilla 1 (one of the three divisions of the Fleet), followed by a move to Rosyth as Staff Officer Operations to FOSNI, the Flag Officer, Scotland and Northern Ireland. That job was dominated by the second Cod War of 1972, a large-scale and serious fishing dispute in Northern waters, ironically between two Nato allies and involving alas several collisions as nets were cut or ships manoeuvred to avoid such an offence.

Thomas was much involved, and revealed a steadiness under pressure and an attention to current details

Flag Officer Second Flotilla (1965-67), which he thoroughly enjoyed, especially in seeing whether his staff could be reduced to a number which could realistically accompany him to sea; this was a reflection of his second appointment as a Commander.

He could have retired then after a good career. There had been the long apprenticeship at sea, then, promotion assured, a series of testing and rewarding appointments, concentrated on the personnel side, which led to the flag list and a good command afloat.

For the Navy of those days, which was beginning to dwindle in ships and in people, that was good going. Their Lordships were still teased by Parkinson's Law, but at the same time

loyal to the British government without being disloyal to the Alliance to whose staff they had appointed him. Here again the times were against him; resources were scarce and diminishing, and the end of the Cold War brought a false optimism with which his military mind had to contend. Experience has already vindicated his appreciations and efforts.

Thomas was created KCB in 1987. In 1991 he left the Navy and was appointed Gentleman Usher to the Black Rod in 1992, a post which carried with it the appointment of Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Lords and Secretary to the Lord Great Chamberlain. All these offices he delighted in, though relieved that the second was more ceremonial than disciplinary. The duties have extended since the 16th century and now a staff of 80 deals with all administrative work in the House of Lords.

Richard Thomas was well suited to lead such a team, and in his tenure proceedings were modified and modernised. He had a stroke in 1993, which left him with something of a limp, but his mind and sense of humour were unimpaired, and when he returned to work his devotion to duty was an example of self-discipline much admired. It was the after-effects which hastened his death this month, and shortened his first real retirement. He was appointed KCVO when he left Westminster in 1993, and the Catholic Church recognised his life's work with a papal knighthood in the Order of Pope Pius IX.

A. B. SAINSBURY

William Richard Scott Thomas, naval officer; born 22 March 1932; OBE 1974; Directorate of Naval Plans, MoD 1974-77; CO HMS *Fearless* 1977-78; Director, Office Appointments (Seamen) 1980-83; Naval Secretary 1983-85; Flag Officer Second Flotilla 1985-87; KCB 1987; Deputy, Scotland 1987-89; UK Military Representative to Nato 1989-92; Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, and Sergeant-at-Arms, House of Lords, and Secretary to the Lord Great Chamberlain 1992-95; KCVO 1995; married 1959 Paddy Cullinan (two sons, four daughters, and two sons deceased); died 13 December 1998.

At Nato, Thomas had the singularly difficult task of being loyal to the British government without being disloyal to the Alliance to whose staff they had appointed him

which did not distract him from remembering to think of future probabilities; because of this, he was appointed OBE. Most important, he was promoted – there were too many deserving candidates to allow for many over-zone promotions in those days – and it was as a Captain that he went to the Ministry of Defence, of which he had happily seen little so far, to assist in the Polaris development.

Captain Thomas went to sea with the Commando assault ship *Fearless* before attending the RCDS course of 1979; he had passed the RN staff course in 1963 and the Joint Services counterpart three years later. It was then that he was wisely directed back to the personnel side of the Navy, first as Director of Seaman Officers' Appointments (1980-82) and then, as a Rear Admiral and the Naval Secretary, responsible for the selection, employment and promotion of officers of all specialisations.

His last command at sea was as

he was tasked with a steady number of posts of representational and inter-allied commitments for which good men had to be found. It is a tribute to the Admiralty Board's perspicacity that there were few occasions when it was whispered that perhaps there weren't enough good men to go round: it is a tribute to Thomas that although he was fortunate to be in the right place at the right time, he was with no doubt the right man.

Promoted Vice Admiral, he was Deputy Saclant (Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic) at Norfolk, Virginia (1987-89) and then, an Admiral, the UK Military Representative to Nato in Brussels. As the Supreme Commander was also C in C the US Atlantic Fleet, he delegated much of the Nato work to Thomas, who was hard pressed, especially as military resources were becoming scarcer while tensions did not diminish.

At Nato itself, Thomas had the singularly difficult task of being

Antonio Ordóñez

A COUPLE of distinguished, if light-hearted, Spanish philosophers recently conducted a conference entitled "The Bullfighting Art of Antonio Ordóñez" at Madrid's illustrious Fine Arts Circle. The matador himself attended on the last day, and when the participants had concluded their analysis of his artistic merit, he asked to say a few words. He began: "After listening to these friends, who know nothing of bullfighting..."

The exchange – taken in good part on all sides – revealed both the sharp humour of this hero of what Spain's traditional newspapers still call the "fiesta nacional", and the deep cultural importance that bullfighting still enjoys in Spain. Ordóñez was one of its last remaining legends.

He won fame in international literary circles in the 1950s through his friendship with Orson Welles and Ernest Hemingway. But in Spain in the 1950s and 1960s he became a myth, adored by the public and revered by fellow bullfighters for his bravery and the beauty of his art.

He was born in the southern Spanish town of Ronda – bullfighting's ancestral home – in 1932, the son of Cayetano Ordóñez, himself a well known bullfighter. Antonio's four brothers, Cayetano, Juan, Pepe and Alfonso all became bullfighters. Young Antonio faced his first calf in 1945 and made his debut in the suit of lights in a corrida in Logroño, La

Rioja in 1948, aged 16. He fought 76 bulls in his first season. A year later he suffered his first serious goring, in Barcelona.

In June 1951 he qualified as a matador and the following year, in a sensational season, he triumphed in Spain's principal bullfighting festivals, the Feria de Seville, and the

writer, who joined the two men's road show, describes their progress from bullfighting to bullfighting across Spain throughout the 1959 season. The gruelling schedule prompted Ordóñez's famous remark: "no one can become a bullfighter unless he can master the art of sleeping in the car". Compared with Dominguín's

ther's American friend "Papa Ernesto".

Later he became friendly with Orson Welles, who became so infatuated with the bullfighting world that the film director ordered his remains to be buried in Ordóñez's "finca" in Ronda. "One day I'll explain how that came about," the bullfighter once promised, but he never did explain.

Ordóñez always regretted that a bullfighter had no control over the beasts he fought, especially in important bullfights like Madrid. He recalled a lunch in Bordeaux in 1952 with the pianist Artur Schnabel, who found it inexplicable that a torero could not choose his bulls as a pianist chose his piano. Ordóñez said: "It's as if someone told Paco de Lucia just before a concert: 'sorry, not your guitar, this one'."

He had one brush with death away from the bullring. In 1966, while driving a car near Cadiz he crashed and his passenger was killed. Ordóñez was tried for homicide through careless driving, but was acquitted.

Ordóñez cut off his pony-tail – as the saying goes – on 12 August 1971, although he had announced his retirement 10 years earlier. He devoted himself to breeding bulls on the ranch he had acquired in 1962, and became the owner and manager of the bullring in Ronda. There he organised the annual "corridos Gayescos" –

cold and ruthless technique. Ordóñez, though unaffected and elegant in style, burned with emotion and commitment. Hemingway was struck by Ordóñez's determined passion to win. The writer was devastated to learn later that Ordóñez and his brother-in-law had hyped up the bitterness of their rivalry for the benefit of the American public.

Hemingway came to know Ordóñez's father, known as El Niño de la Palma, when he fought at the bull-running festival in Pamplona in the 1920s. Young Antonio called his fa-

Hemingway was devastated to discover that Ordóñez and Dominguín had hyped up the bitterness of their rivalry for the benefit of the American public

San Isidro festival in Madrid. He fought more than 2,000 bulls during 30 years.

In 1953 he married Carmen Gonzalez Lucas, better known as Carmena Dominguín, daughter of the torero Domingo Dominguín and sister of three matadors, including the most famous of the dynasty, Luis Miguel Dominguín, who was for years Ordóñez's fiercest rival.

This battle between the two matadores in the late Fifties inspired Hemingway's report for *Life* magazine that he worked up into the book *The Dangerous Summer*. The



Ordóñez (left) after being injured in the bullring at Dax, 1959, with Dominguín at right

bullfights in the style and with the costumes immortalised by the 18th-century master Francisco de Goya.

His two daughters, Carmen Cayetana and Ana Belen, each married bullfighters. Last October, Carmen's son Francisco Rivera, also a bullfighter, married Maria Eugenia Martinez de Irujo, daughter of the Duchess of Alba, one of Spain's

grandest grandees, in a wedding broadcast live on Spanish television. The proud grandfather was too ill with cancer to attend.

The conservative Labour Minister Javier Arenas and the Peruvian writer Mario Vargas Llosa were among those paying respects to Ordóñez whose body lay in state in Seville town hall yesterday. Later

this week his ashes will be scattered in the arena of Ronda bullring.

ELIZABETH NASH

Antonio Ordóñez Araujo, matador; born Ronda, Spain 16 February 1932; married 1953 Carmen Gonzalez Lucas (deceased; two daughters), 1963 Pilar Lezcano; died Seville 19 December 1998.

Susan Bicknell



Affinity for Bach's music

SUSAN BICKNELL was a great champion of the viola. She performed the entire repertoire for the instrument, taught viola with great dedication at the Royal Junior College of Music and the Welsh College of Music and Drama and had started to record the works of Brahms and Schumann. Her need to get as close as possible to the heart of music also led her to embrace the period instrument movement and she performed frequently with London Baroque and the English Concert.

She was, with me, a founder member of the New Mozart Ensemble and of the Festival de St Agre in France, and was a loyal and inspiring colleague in cham-

ber music, contributing many ideas and insights to help enrich our performances.

Following her Wigmore Hall debut in 1981 Bicknell gave concerts all over the world as a soloist, as guest with the Chilingirian and Allegri String Quartets, as member of the Amati Quartet and with the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, the English Chamber Orchestra and the London Philharmonic.

She was based in Florence for a number of years and on her return became principal viola of the London Mozart Players. She also delighted in opera and was a great champion of the now defunct Kent Opera which she was determined should continue to exist

despite government axing of its funding.

An eminent viola player, Bicknell was accepted originally as a violin student at the Royal College of Music at the early age of 16. She later studied in Brussels. It was Orre Pernel, the great Bach specialist, who persuaded Bicknell to switch to the viola and who became perhaps her greatest musical inspiration. The great affinity Bicknell felt for Bach's music is embodied in the fine recording she made of the Cello Suites in 1996.

Here she was satisfied that she had made a true musical contribution and that she had also united certain of her own religious and practical ideas in her playing. She

made sure that proceeds from the sale of this CD went to the Edmund Emery Fund for cancer research, a cause which was particularly important to her.

Sue Bicknell was a deeply spiritual person. Her own Christianity sustained her throughout her life as did her knowledge of Eastern religions, particularly Zen and Tibetan Buddhism. She also gained understanding of mathematical philosophy, Newton's laws and Einstein's theories, and delighted in making connections with her own artistic and spiritual understanding.

Her range of knowledge and her appetite for it was wide. She read extensively not only in English but also in French, Italian and ancient Greek,

which she had studied in order to make her own New Testament translations.

MELVYN TAN

Susan Bicknell's talents as a teacher and performer were matched by a remarkable generosity of spirit, writes Jeffrey Tobias. It was typical of her that even during her final month of life she arranged for her string quartet, the Amati, to play at the Middlesex Hospital to help raise funds for cancer research.

This late in the day, she could barely feel the fingers of her left hand yet she somehow retained sufficient dexterity to sustain her wonderful technique. She never

complained throughout a lengthy illness lasting a decade, and in the latter years her professional ambition if anything seemed to accelerate: chamber works, baroque concerts and two unforgettable performances, as soloist, of Berlioz's *Harold in Italy*.

Eighteen months before she died, when faced with the inevitable, she achieved her lifelong wish to transcribe and record three of the Bach unaccompanied cello suites on the viola, leaving us a novel and permanent insight into her unique vision.

Susan Margaret Bicknell, viola player; born Farnborough, Surrey 5 August 1948; died London 20 November 1998.



Higginbotham (left) applauds as Nelson Mandela holds up his honorary Doctor of Law degree at Harvard University, September 1998. AP

A. Leon Higginbotham

A. LEON HIGGINBOTHAM was one of the most distinguished American jurists of his generation. His life as a lawyer was devoted to advancing the cause of civil rights and racial integration. He personified that cohort of African Americans who came of age in the United States in the 1950s and 1960s when the Supreme Court decision in the case of *Brown v Board of Education* was revolutionising race relations.

Indeed, he was an outstanding example of the whole purpose of integration, which was to ensure that a black man or woman with the right stuff could enjoy the kind of career talented white Americans took for granted. Born in modest circumstances in Trenton, New Jersey in 1928, he went to segregated schools and won a place in a predominantly white college at Purdue, Indiana, in 1944.

Here he experienced the kind of crude anti-black discrimination routine in all parts of the United States at that time. Nevertheless, he graduated BA from Antioch in 1949 and took a law degree at Yale Law School, where he won academic awards, in 1952. Few black students at that time graduated from such prestigious institutions.

Seeking work as a lawyer in Philadelphia, he ran into serious discrimination for the first time. When one of the city's top law firms asked him to attend an interview, it was clear they had assumed he was a white man. The lawyer who interviewed him agreed his credentials were impressive, but then added, "Of course, there's nothing I can do for you."

The "of course" was what hurt and what characterised race relations in the

United States on the eve of the Supreme Court's landmark decision in the *Brown* case, which was published in May 1954. This decision, in which the Court voted 9-0, declared segregated schools unconstitutional, undermining segregation in every section and region of America, not just in education in the South, but in housing, employment, politics and the law right across the nation.

It took another 20 years for segregation to end, years of legal and political struggle historians call the civil rights movement, and in this struggle lawyers like Higginbotham played a crucial part. In 1954 he joined the Philadelphia law firm of Norris, Green, Harris & Higginbotham, became the city's assistant district attorney and then president of the Philadelphia chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which had led the struggle to undermine the legal basis of segregation in America since the 1920s.

In 1964, President John Kennedy appointed him as the first black lawyer to serve on the Federal Communications Commission. He was 36. Three years later, Kennedy's successor, Lyndon Johnson, considered putting him on the United States Supreme Court in 1967 before naming Thurgood Marshall as the first African American to serve on the highest court in the nation.

Higginbotham remained an unambiguous champion of integration, which had to be enforced by law, but when Richard Nixon was president, between 1969 and 1975, such ideas fell out of favour. As a lawyer, teacher and legal scholar Higginbotham's influence continued to increase so that in 1977 Pres-

ident Jimmy Carter appointed him to the federal district court of appeals in Philadelphia, where he could rule on the constitutionality of civil cases.

This date was significant. In 1977-78 the US Supreme Court heard and decided the landmark case of *Regents of the University of California v Bakke*. In a divided and complicated decision the court ruled 5-4 that, contrary to the *Brown* decision 24 years earlier, educational discrimination in favour of blacks was still discrimination, and that preference systems or admission quotas to achieve racial balance on university courses were unconstitutional.

This saw the start of a generation in which positive discrimination, or affirmative action as it was known, came increasingly under attack, not least from black lawyers with conservative views, like Clarence Thomas, appointed by President Bush to the US Supreme Court to succeed Thurgood Marshall in 1991.

Two years earlier, Higginbotham had become chief judge on the Philadelphia appeals court and now enjoyed a wide reputation as scholar and lawyer. When Thomas's appointment was confirmed, after hearings in which it was alleged he had sexually harassed another black lawyer named Anita Hill, Higginbotham wrote a celebrated open letter to Thomas asking him to consider the historical roots from which American racism had grown, and emphasising the importance of law in defeating racial discrimination.

Justice Thomas was deaf to such arguments, as were increasing numbers of Americans. The era of universal acceptance of affirmative action was over. "I witnessed the birth of racial justice

in the Supreme Court," Higginbotham explained in the *New York Times* magazine in January this year. "Now, after 45 years as a lawyer, judge and law professor, I sometimes feel as if I am watching justice die." This view was widely shared by other liberal Americans, whatever the colour of their skin.

In his last years, Higginbotham's fame as a legal scholar and tireless advocate of civil rights increased. Thus in 1995 he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, America's highest civilian honour, while only two weeks before he died he was one of a handful of legal scholars asked to testify before the House Judiciary Committee about the proposed impeachment of President Clinton.

His advice, as in everything he said and wrote, was concise and clear. Even if Clinton had committed the perjury of which the Starr report indicted him, not all perjury was equal under the law. Lies about his relationship with Monica Lewinsky were more like lies to avoid a speeding ticket than lies about treason or bribery, which were impeachable offences. Perjury about something which was not even a misdemeanour could not justify removing a president from office. In the next few months we shall see whether Congress is as deaf to Leon Higginbotham's advice as Justice Thomas was to the advice he received in 1991.

PATRICK RENSFAW

Aloysius Leon Higginbotham, lawyer: born Trenton, New Jersey 25 February 1928; twice married (two sons, two daughters); died Boston, Massachusetts 14 December 1998.

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

NORBERT MILLER: Hannah, born in Vienna on 25 February 1916, died peacefully in London after a short illness on 17 December. Daughter of Otto and Erna Nussbaum, loving wife of the late Martin Miller and wonderful mother of Daniel. She will be greatly missed by those who knew, loved and were inspired by her. Donations to Help the Aged. For further information call 0181 292 8008.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

Announcements for BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at £5.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, functions, Forthcoming marriages, Marriages) are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra.

BIRTHDAYS

Mr Alexander Bennett, former chairman, Whitbread and Co, 85; Air Commodore Dame Jean Bromet, former Director of the WRARF; 86: Mr Basil Collins, former chairman, Nabisco, 75; Mrs Chris Evert-Lloyd, tennis champion, 44; Miss Jane Fonda, actress, 61; Sir James Hill, former MP 72; Mr Peter Johnson, headmaster, Wrekin College, 51; Sir Frederick Lawton, former Appeal Court judge, 87; Mr Albert Lee, rock guitarist, 55; Mr Geoff Lewis, horse-racing trainer, 63; Mr Wyndham Milligan, former principal, Wolsey Hall, Oxford, 91; Mr Steve Perryman, footballer, 47; Mr Anthony Powell CB, novelist, 98; Mr John Quayle, actor, 60; Sir John Quinlan, former chairman, Barclays Bank, 69; Flight Lieutenant William Reid VC, 77; Brigadier Vera Rooke, former director, Army Nursing Services, 74; Mr Walter Spanghero, rugby player, 55; Mr Charles Starkey, former jockey, 59; Mr Michael Tilson Thomas, conductor, 64; Mr Peter Tinniswood, playwright, 62; Sir Cyril Townsend, former MP 61; Mr Dong Walters, cricketer, 53; Dr Alan Wynne Williams

MP, 53; Professor Robert Worcester, chairman, Market & Opinion Research International, 65.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Thomas à Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1118; Masaccio (Tommaso di Giovanni), Florentine painter, 1401; Mathurin Regnier, French satirical poet, 1573; Jean Racine, French playwright, 1639; Benoit-Tranquille Berbiguier, French flautist and composer, 1782; Dr Robert Moffat, Scottish missionary and traveller, 1795; Leopold von Ranke, German historian, 1795; Sir Joseph Whitworth Bt, mechanical engineer, 1803; Benjamin Disraeli, First Earl of Beaconsfield, statesman, 1804; Thomas Couture, French painter, 1815; Prince Peter Alekseyevich Kropotkin, Russian anarchist revolutionary and geographer, 1842; Nathaniel (Nat) Gould, racing novelist, 1857; Josef Vissarionovich Dzhughashvili (Joseph Stalin), Soviet leader, 1879; Walter Charles Hagen, golf champion, 1892; Leroy Robertson, composer, 1896; Harry Revel, popular composer and pianist, 1905; Heinrich Böll, German author, 1917; Frank

Hampson, creator of "Dan Dare", 1918.

Deaths: Giovanni Boccaccio, Italian author, 1375; Vicente Joanes, Spanish painter, 1579; Catherine of Braganza, consort of King Charles II, 1705; Bernard de Montfaucon, French critic and classical scholar, 1741; James Parkinson, surgeon and paleontologist, 1824; Niels Wilhelm Gade, Danish composer, 1890; Walter Hines Page, ambassador and editor, 1918; Frank Billings Kellogg, politician, 1937; Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald, novelist, 1940; General George Smith Patton, military leader, 1945; Lewis Terman, psychologist, 1956; Lion Feuchtwanger, German novelist and playwright, 1958; Sir (Jack) John Berry Hobbs, cricketer, 1963.

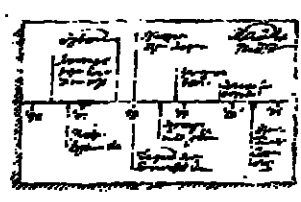
On this day: Richard Coeur de Lion was captured by the Duke of Austria, 1192; the Pilgrim Fathers landed at Plymouth Rock in North America, 1620; in North America, the *Boston Gazette* was first issued, 1719; paper money called *assignats* were issued in France, 1789; the first co-operative store was opened in Rochdale, 1844; anaesthetics were used for the first time in Britain (by Robert Liston), 1846;

Charley's Aunt, the farce by Brandon Thomas, was first performed, 1892; the Port of London Authority was inaugurated, 1908; after a colliery disaster at Pretoria Pit, Bolton, 344 lives were lost, 1910; the first newspaper to publish a crossword puzzle was the *New York World*. This was compiled by Liverpool-born Arthur Wynne, 1913; the premiere of the first full-length full-colour animated cartoon (*Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*) by Walt Disney, took place, 1935; General Charles de Gaulle was elected president of the French Fifth Republic, 1958; the first flight of Man around the moon took place when Apollo 8 was launched, 1969.

Today is the Feast Day of St Anastasius II of Antioch, St Glycerius, St John Vincent, St Peter Canisius and Saints Themistocles & Dioscorus.

LECTURES

Victoria and Albert Museum: Valerie Holman, "Victorian Painting", 2pm. Children's Christmas Lecture at the Royal Society of Arts, London WC2: Dr Richard Wiseman, "Do You Believe in Magic?", 2.30pm.



HISTORICAL NOTES

PHYLLIS WILLMOTT

Black stockings filled with goodies

MY MOTHER was born in 1892 in the front downstairs bedroom of an ancient thatched cottage in which many generations of agricultural families must have been born, lived out their lives and died. The cottage (which is no longer there) was in the centre of the Bedfordshire village of Blunham. Opposite stood - and still stands - the ancient church, surrounded by green grass and old tombstones. Along one side of its enclosing wall was the lane which led, under an avenue of lime trees, to the banks of the Ivel.

It was a setting that could not have changed much since Bunyan had applied on behalf of a villager he knew for a licence to preach there in the 17th century. The villager was named John Wright and Bunyan had earlier spent time with him in Bedford jail.

My mother's parents were not natives of Blunham, or even Bedfordshire. The couple had met and married in London where she was a nursery maid and he a plate-layer on the railways. Their union produced 11 children, of whom my mother was the last but one. By the time she was born in the Blunham cottage her older brothers and sisters had already left home, which not only eased the sleeping arrangements (there was only one upstairs bedroom), but of course meant fewer mouths to feed.

It was partly for this reason, but also because her father

had regular and secure employment on the railways, that my mother could look back on what was for the times a relatively affluent childhood. Not sufficiently affluent, however, to be above joining in the gleaning with the other villagers after the harvest. In my mother's earliest years, some of the flour from the gleaning was used to make bread for the family, which was baked twice a week in the "second oven" of the village bakery. The kitchen range installed between the inglenooks of the oakbeamed fireplace was used for week-day dinners: boiled steak and kidney pudding with mashed potatoes and "greens", pork and onion suet roll, "duck-a-nothing" (baked chopped pork, rice and herbs) or "Bedfordshire clangers". And always a pudding - baked rice, or more often bread and butter pudding or boiled treacle pudding - to follow.

It was a heavy diet in which little food came from outside the village, although as the century drew to a close some new foods - such as tinned salmon, treacle and Quaker Oats - appeared. Bananas were a rare treat brought by the brothers from London; lemons were "never seen in the house", and oranges were a once-a-year Christmas luxury.

One Christmas held a particularly vivid memory for my mother. From an early age she had suffered from bad earache, and on Christ-

mas Eve she was crying bitterly with the pain. It was late and her mother brought her downstairs, for her sisters Bertha and Florrie were trying to sleep in the children's bedroom upstairs. Everything was quiet until there was the noise of a cart rumbling by in the dark outside. "Listen!" said my grandmother to her sobbing daughter. "I do believe that could be Father Christmas!" Magically, this must have charmed away the pain, for the next my mother knew was waking in the morning to find her black stocking hanging at the end of the bed, filled with the orange, nuts, sweets and small presents smuggled into the cottage by the older children in preceding weeks.

Sadly, not everyone in those days could hope for black stockings filled with goodies. Poverty was as common the lot of agricultural labourers in Bedfordshire as in most other rural areas. My mother remembered that when the new potatoes came in from her father's allotment her mother would cook a large pot of put out on her doorstep for the less fortunate village children. In the winter she would fill her baking tins with jacket potatoes. From other accounts, it seems that this sort of help was not at all uncommon.

Phyllis Willmott is the author of *From Rural East Anglia to Suburban London* (Institute of Community Studies, £9.50)

CASE SUMMARIES

21 DECEMBER 1998

THE FOLLOWING notes of judgments were prepared by the reporters of the *All England Law Reports*.

Release dates

R v Governor of Wandsworth Prison, ex p Sorhaino; QBD (Div C) (Simon Brown LJ, Asill J) 14 Dec 1998.

TIME SPENT in custody on remand for offence B, whilst also detained pursuant to a magistrates' court sentence for offence A, was not to be counted towards the serving of the sentence of imprisonment for offence B when the sentence for offence A was quashed on appeal before the defendant had been sentenced to imprisonment for offence B. A sentence once quashed was not void *ab initio*: during the period of sentence A, therefore, the applicant was not in prison "only" by reason of an order of a court made in connection with any proceedings related to sentence B, as would be required by s 67(1A) of the Criminal Justice Act 1967 were that period of time to count towards sentence B. *Peter Duffy QC, Rambert de Mello (Goodall Barnett James, Brighton) for the applicant; Eleanor Grey (Treasury Solicitor) for the respondent.*

Road traffic

DPP v McCarthy; QBD (Div C) (Simon Brown LJ, Asill J) 14 Dec 1998.

A DRIVER having been required to stop following upon a road traffic accident as defined by s 170(2) of the Road Traffic Act 1988 might give the address of a third party provided the address fulfilled the purposes of the section, which was to enable easy

and swift communication between the parties to the accident.

James Maxwell-Scott (E. Edwards Son & Niece, Iford) for the appellant; John McGuinness (CPS, Wood Green) for the prosecution.

Evidence

McCauley v Hope (Carry), third party; CA (Butler-Sloss, Potter LJ, Sir Patrick Russell) 8 Dec 1998.

WHERE A plaintiff injured in a road traffic accident sought, in proceedings against the defendant, to rely on the defendant's conviction of driving without due care and attention, the plaintiff was not entitled to judgment under RSC Ord 14. The defendant, although admitting the conviction, alleged in reliance on an expert's report that it was erroneous. Section 11(2) of the Civil Evidence Act 1968 provided the clearest possible mandate to a defendant in a road traffic accident case to attack his earlier conviction, provided he had some good cause for so doing, and could discharge the burden of proof to the civil standard. The Ord 14 process was inappropriate in such a case since there were serious issues to be tried. *Elizabeth Gumbel (David Saunders, Ashford) for the plaintiff; Ian McLaren QC, Douglas Herbert (E. Edwards Son & Niece, Iford) for the defendant.*

Discovery

Dubai Aluminium Co Ltd v Al Alawi & ors; QBD, Commercial Court (Rix J) 3 Dec 1998.

Criminal or fraudulent conduct undertaken for the purposes of litigation fell on the same side of the line as advising on or setting up criminal or

fraudulent transactions yet to be undertaken, as distinct from from the entirely legitimate professional business of advising or assisting clients on their past conduct, however iniquitous. Documents and reports generated by such criminal or fraudulent conduct which were relevant to issues in the case were, accordingly, discoverable, falling outside the legitimate area of legal professional privilege.

Mark Pelling (Warner Cranston) for the plaintiff; Clive Freedman QC, Alana Gougey (Phillips Horn Crawfords Brewster) for the first defendant.

Sentencing

R v Baker; CA (Crim Div) (Phil LJ, Turner J, Judge Rant QC) 15 Dec 1998.

When imposing a sentence longer than one commensurate with the seriousness of the offence in question in order to protect the public from serious harm from an offender, pursuant to s 32(2)(b) of the Criminal Justice Act 1991, the power of the court to order sentences to run consecutively was not limited. The expression "maximum permitted sentence" applied to the sentence for an individual offence, and provided that did not exceed the permitted maximum, there was no obstacle to aggregating other sentences which did not exceed that maximum. Moreover, there was no obstacle to exercising the power under s 32(2)(b) in an individual sentence imposed consecutively to another sentence on which that power had been exercised.

Michael Thota (Registrar of Criminal Appeals) for the appellant; Brian Almon (Treasury Solicitor) as amicus curiae.

WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE

degrade, v.

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S repeated assertion about an air-strike "to degrade" Saddam Hussein might sound curious to some ears. After all, the despot could hardly be any more base. In fact, the verb has been so consumed by its meaning of to debase that this has sidelined its first, medieval sense of taking

ancestors left thee." In each case, the OED last cites Jowett and Cardinal Newman, which is lofty company for any President. Incidentally, whenever Clinton attends a fundraiser at the Sheraton New York, he uses the side-entrance: surely a perilous photo-opportunity: it is hard by the 53rd Street Cigar Bar.

A mother's greatest sacrifice

A FAMILY AFFAIR

Sister Mary Joseph

I didn't have a vision or hear voices when I got the calling. Something just quietly changed in my life. I used to be quite materialistic and loved shopping, especially for clothes. But suddenly all these things seemed completely unimportant. I was brought up in a Catholic home with 10 brothers and sisters but I wouldn't say I was particularly religious. I went to Mass every week and said my prayers but in my teens I was just like any other normal young girl. I wanted to leave school, go to university and get a life. I did quite well at school and got into Birmingham University, where I studied law. After that I joined a legal practice and began my law training.

It was after I had been on a trip to Lourdes with my mum that I started to feel differently. She had always wanted to go so it was a bit of a trip of a lifetime for her but I didn't really think much about it. After I came back and returned to work I started going to Mass in my lunch hour, which was pretty weird for me. The feeling started to grow inside me that perhaps I was really cut out for a religious life.

At first I thought it was a phase and that it would pass. I started praying for guidance and went to see my local priest to get advice. I thought I would get some kind of sign or proof that I was on the right track. The priest said if I was waiting for a fax from heaven I'd have a long wait as God doesn't send faxes! So it was quite a long time before I was really sure about it.

It has never occurred to me that I may have made the wrong decision. I never feel I want to be anywhere else because I am so sure I have chosen

the right way of life for me. Whereas my motivation before was to earn money and have a good time, now it is to love God and serve the Church. I don't miss anything about my old life, neither do I feel that my freedom has been curbed.

Of course, I miss my mum and I will be thinking of her at Christmas but I am so involved in the life of the convent I don't have time to dwell on life outside. I have my own room with a bed, a desk and my books. I never get bored.

I get up at five in the morning, work hard at my housekeeping duties all day and go to bed at around 8.30pm. The days and weeks literally fly by - this will be my third Christmas in the convent.

Before I joined and I was thinking everything through, it did cross my mind that I would never marry and have children, which was a shame because I love children - particularly babies.

But if you have a vocation, God does give you the strength to cope. Instead of having children of my own I have got thousands of children in a spiritual sense. In the convent, we are like spiritual mothers, praying for the souls of all the children in the world.

There is a real sense of sisterhood in here. I feel that this is now my family because we all have that spiritual union and devotion to Christ.

I believe that God has a special path for everyone and, at some point in any young Catholic's life, they question themselves and ask whether they want to become a priest or a nun.

It wasn't a difficult choice for me in the end because things seemed to miraculously fall into place. All I did was pray for discernment and everything was revealed.

Three years ago Geraldine McGrory, 28, became a novice in the enclosed Benedictine order at Tyburn Convent in London where she is called Sister Mary Joseph. Her mother, Margaret McGrory, is a housewife and has 11 children. She lives in a suburb of Birmingham.



A child of God: Sister Mary Joseph and her mother Margaret

Kalpesh Lathigra

Margaret

I had very high hopes for Geraldine because she was a very clever child. She was top of her class in everything at school. When she went to university to study law we were all so proud of her. She did well at law college and then began her job in a solicitor's office. She seemed to really enjoy her working life - she was very popular and made friends easily.

About three years ago Geraldine came home to visit for the weekend. She seemed quieter than usual and after a while she told us she had decided to enter an enclosed convent. She said she had thought long and hard about it but she was sure that was what she wanted to do with her life.

At first it was a bit of a shock, and I would never have told her but there was a part of me that was a little bit disappointed because of what she was giving up. I felt she had a good career and could go far. But I do feel very strongly that children should follow their own path in life, so I was also immensely proud of her. In a Catholic family as big as ours it's considered almost an honour if one of your children gets the calling. I suppose you could say that I had secretly harboured some hopes that one of mine would have a vocation.

Although we are a very strong Catholic family and go to church every week, none of our other children has ever shown the slightest desire to go into the Church. In fact, they were probably more shocked about Geraldine's decision than I was. They had never come into contact with nuns and, like many people who only ever see them on the television, probably thought of them as figures of fun. Now that they have seen her way of life they really

appreciate what she is doing. I missed Geraldine dreadfully when she first went in. I still keep her bedroom just as she left it. Some people might think it's like a shrine to her. But it doesn't feel like that. I never entertained any hopes that she would come back but I just couldn't bring myself to change anything. Her books are arranged just as they were. I go in now and then and sit quietly and have a read. It makes me feel close to her.

It's hard for any mother to come to terms with the fact that their daughter is miles away and can't just get away when she wants. I can't just pop up and see her for a cup of tea when I want to. I can't phone her up for a chat like other mothers do. But I do respect the fact that she has given herself to the religious life and, although our relationship is now quite restrictive, it is worth any sacrifices I have had to make. We visit her once a month and she writes us lovely letters.

There is an inner happiness about Geraldine now that I can't explain. Looking back, I think she was probably quite stressed when she was working. She worried endlessly about the state of the world. She felt she wanted to do something positive to help. She really has a very strong belief that dedicating her life to God will make a difference. Convent life suits her very well. She is full of joy and although I know that if she decided tomorrow that she had chosen the wrong path she could leave, I don't think she will. She is very strong-willed and knows her own mind. But if she ever changed her mind she knows that we will always be there for her and support her in her choice.

INTERVIEWS BY
LIZ BESTIC

Why Christmas always turkeys in America

ONE OF the many small mysteries I hoped to resolve when I first moved to England was this: when British people sang "A Wassailing We'll Go", where was it they went, and what exactly did they do when they got there?

Throughout an American upbringing I heard this song every Christmas without ever finding anyone who had the faintest idea of how to go about the obscure and enigmatic business of wassailing. Given the perky lilt of the carol and the party spirit in which it was always sung, it suggested to my youthful imagination rosy-cheeked wench bearing flagons of ale in a scene of general merriment and abandon before a blazing yule log in a hall decked with holly - and, with this in mind, I looked forward to my first English Christmas with a certain frank anticipation. In my house, the most exciting thing you could hope for in the way of seasonal recklessness was being offered a cookie shaped like a Christmas tree.

So you may conceive my disappointment when my first Christmas in England came and went and, not only was there no wassailing to be seen, but no one I quizzed was any the wiser as to its arcane and venerable secrets. In fact, in nearly 20 years in England I never did find anyone who had ever gone a-wassailing, at least not knowingly. Nor while we are at it, did I encounter any mumming, still less any hodeney (a kind of organised group begging for coins with a view to buying drinks at the nearest public house, which I think is an outstanding idea), or many of the other traditions of an English Christmas that were expressly promised in the lyrics of carols and the novels of Jane Austen and Charles Dickens.

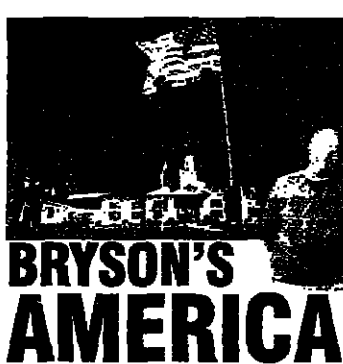
It wasn't until I happened on a copy of TG Crippen's scholarly and ageless *Christmas and Christmas Lore*, published in London in 1923, that I finally found that wassail was originally a salutation. From the Old Norse *ves heil*, it means "in good health". In Anglo-Saxon times,

according to Crippen, it was customary for someone offering a drink to say "Wassail!" and for the recipient to respond "Drink!" and for the participants to repeat the exercise until comfortably horizontal.

It is clear from Crippen's tome that in 1923 this and many other agreeable Christmas customs were still commonly encountered in Britain. Now, alas, they appear to be gone for good.

Even so, Christmas in Britain is wonderful, far better than in America, and for all kinds of reasons. To begin with, in Britain - or at least in England - you still pretty much pack all your festive excesses (eating, drinking, gift-giving, more eating and drinking) into Christmas, whereas we in America spread ours out over three separate holidays.

In America, the big eating holiday is Thanksgiving, at the end of November. Thanksgiving is a great holiday - probably the very best holiday in America, if you ask me. (In case you've always wondered, it



commemorates the first harvest feast at which the pilgrims sat down with the Indians to thank them for all their help and tell them: "Oh, and by the way, we've decided we want the whole country.") It is a great holiday because you don't have to give gifts or send cards or do anything but eat until you begin to look like a balloon that has been left on a helium machine too long. The trouble is that it comes less than a month before Christmas. So when, on 25 December, Mom brings out another turkey, you don't go,

"Turkey! YIPPEEE!" but rather, "Ah, turkey again is it, Mother?" Under such an arrangement Christmas dinner is bound to come as an anticlimax.

Also, Americans don't drink much at Christmas, as a rule. Indeed, I suspect most people in America would think it faintly unseemly to imbibe anything more than, say, a small sherry before lunch on Christmas Day. Americans save their large-scale drinking for New Year's Eve.

Nor, come to that, do we have many of the standard features of Christmas that you take for granted. There are no Christmas pantomimes in America. No mince pies, and hardly any Christmas puddings. There's no bell-ringing on Christmas Eve. No crackers. No big double issue of the *Radio Times*. No brandy butter. No little dishes full of nuts. No hearing "Merry Xmas Everybody" by Slade at least once every 20 minutes. Above all, there is no Boxing Day.

On 26 December, everybody in the United States goes back to work. In fact, Christmas as a

noticeable phenomenon pretty well ends about midday on 25 December. There's nothing special on TV, and most large stores and shopping malls now open for the afternoon (so that people can exchange all the things they got but didn't want). You can go to the movies on Christmas Day in America. You can go bowling. It doesn't seem right somehow.

As for Boxing Day, most people in America have never heard of it or, at best, have only the vaguest idea of what it is. It may surprise you to hear, incidentally, that Boxing Day is actually quite a modern invention. The *Oxford English Dictionary* can trace the term back no further than 1849. Its roots go back at least to medieval times, when it was the custom to break open church alms boxes at Christmas and distribute the contents to the poor, but as a holiday Boxing Day only dates from the last century.

Which explains why you have it and we don't. Personally, I much prefer

Boxing Day to Christmas, largely because it has all the advantages of Christmas (lots of food and drink, general good will towards all, a chance to doze in an armchair during daylight hours) without any of the disadvantages - like spending hours on the floor trying to assemble doll's houses and bicycles from instructions written in Taiwan, or the uttering of false professions of gratitude to Aunt Gladys for a hand-knitted jumper that even Gyles Brandreth wouldn't wear. ("No honestly, Glad, I've been looking everywhere for a jumper with a unicorn motif.")

No, if there is one thing I miss from England it's Boxing Day. That and, of course, hearing "Merry Xmas Everybody" by Slade over and over. Apart from anything else, it makes you appreciate the rest of the year so much more.

Extracted from 'Notes from a Big Country', published by Doubleday at £16.99. At all major book shops or by mail-order on 01624 675137

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INFORMATION UNLIMITED

Will it affect you? What does it mean?

Most equipment and software contain

microprocessors which rely on dates to function correctly. The millennium bug is the term used to describe the potential difficulties that computer and electronic equipment will have in handling the date change on 1 January 2000. The problem originated in the Sixties and Seventies when computer programmers, to save memory space, adopted the practice of referring to years by their last two digits rather than by all four: "98", rather than "1998".

As a consequence, some computers will not be able to tell the difference between the year 2000 and the year 1900, because both figures have 00 as their last two digits. This could mean that some computers and electronic equipment will produce meaningless information or fail at the millennium. Most new products contain chips that do recognise 2000.

What may be affected?

Time is ticking away inside personal computers, mainframes and electronic systems all over the world and, as most areas of modern life are affected by IT, no one knows how great the impact will be, which is why the Government is

ALL THE FACTS YOU NEED TO AVOID HEARTACHE

NO 19: THE MILLENNIUM BUG

trying to get everyone to take preventative action.

Electronic equipment such as telephones, fax machines, photocopyers, fire alarms, security systems, medical equipment, air conditioning, heating systems, drainage, water, sewerage and lifts can all contain microprocessors which may be affected by the date change.

Organisations which depend on services such as water, gas and electricity may be affected by failures in their supply chain even if their own internal systems are 2000-compliant.

What you can do

Most problems will occur around the millennium date change. The Government has set up a scheme called Action 2000 to prepare businesses and consumers for the millennium. Call them for further advice on measures to be taken on 0845 6012000. Contact your employer, bank, insurer, GP and anyone else who holds computer records of your affairs and ask them how they will be tackling the problem.

- ◆ Keep your financial papers in order for 1999.
- ◆ Keep a record (dates and amounts) of wage payments, direct debits,

mortgage repayments and policy renewal dates which you will be able to refer back to if you have a problem in 2000.

◆ If you have a credit card with "00" expiry date, keep all your transaction slips from now on and check them regularly against your statements.

◆ Call your gas and electricity suppliers and ask them what measures they are taking. Keep your utility bills so that you have proof of meter readings, in case there are problems with billing in 2000.

Does insurance cover it?

Policies are designed to cover the unforeseen and the unpredictable - the millennium is foreseeable and predictable, though some of the consequences are not. Speak to your insurance company if you are concerned and check if they have any exclusions, as these may start to appear in 1999. For general advice, call the Association for British Insurers on 0171-600 3333.

Household insurance: it is unlikely that your policy will cover individual items which malfunction. It will be seen as the manufacturer's responsibility to insure that their products are

millennium-compliant. However, if your heating broke down and your pipes froze and burst, they would probably meet the cost of repair, because burst pipes could not have been predicted, but it is best to phone them and check.

Travel insurance should be checked closer to 2000 to cover against delays, lost luggage or cancellations.

The "home check" pack from Action 2000 gives instructions on how to check the internal clock on certain products in your home such as VCRs. By setting the clock to roll from 1999 to 2000 you can see if it recognises the date change.

The Action 2000 website www.bug2000.co.uk lists the top 100 software packages for personal computers and tells you how they might be affected. If you discover that any products are not year 2000-compatible, get in touch with your retailer.

Further information

The Consumers Association would be interested to know if you have experienced any problems with products or services as a result of the millennium bug. Call 0645 830232 if you have had a problem with a product, or 0645 830234 if you have had a problem with a service.

Compiled by the authors of *Women Unlimited: The Directory for Life* published by Penguin, £9.99

The king of St Helens

The Johnny Vegas Television Show is about to arrive in your living room. It's the most instantly legendary comedy moment since Father Ted. By Ben Thompson

If you've never seen Johnny Vegas live, you will need to be convinced that a 28-year-old failed potter can mould an audience in his hands with the suppleness and application of a master craftsman. By sheer force of personality, this emotional volcano from St Helens - his fleshy slopes tattooed with rivulets of beer, sweat and clay - persuades women to let him kiss them and men to give him their designer shirts to clothe his nakedness. He reflects people's anxiety back at them through the distorting mirror of his own desperation, and they watch spellbound as he overcomes the class divide with an uplifting chorus of the "Hokey Cokey".

Even those who have seen Johnny Vegas bend a crowd to his will might still be wondering how he can successfully transfer to TV, where the key element of the Vegas live experience - the fact that the audience are shut in a room with him and can't escape because they've paid - is no longer a factor. Furthermore, in small screen terms, several aspects of the Vegas persona look naggingly familiar.

The travails of bottom flight show-business have already been explored by such able prospectors as Tommy Cockles, John Shuttleworth and Alan Partridge. The thin line between acting drunk and actually being drunk is hardly new ground either. But the rich ore Vegas extracts is all the more valuable for coming from such a well-mined seam. And the one-off debut of *The Johnny Vegas Television Show* (with a series to follow some time next year) is the most instantly legendary

TV comedy moment since the first episode of *Father Ted*. Think Les Dawson at his best, think John Kennedy Toole's literary masterpiece *Confederacy of Dunces* translated to a small northern boating lake, think a blow-up model of Jonathan Creek's Alan Davies being inflated by an automatic balloon pump. *The Johnny Vegas Television Show* suggests all these things.

Resplendently out of place in a bustling west London champagne bar, Johnny Vegas's representative on earth - 28-year-old failed potter Michael Pennington - reflects on all the different ways it could have gone wrong. More sober in dress and demeanour than his flamboyantly flared and car-coated creation, Pennington shares Vegas's gift for rhetoric, and his Lancashire accent is as rich as a well-made Eccles cake.

"The question was, how did we get Johnny on TV without making him a TV person?" Pennington says. "We didn't want to make a mock documentary. This is how he lives. We didn't want to do a stand-up show, because Johnny Vegas is not a presenter: he's a very sad bloke who lives on his own who's an alcoholic. Every now and then he ventures into the world and he's very, very bitter."

The reason *The Johnny Vegas Television Show* succeeds where so many other attempts to translate Edinburgh Festival hits to TV have failed, is that it manages to establish its own integrity rather than shoe-horning a well-boned club act into an inappropriate new format.

"This is the dark years," Pennington explains, "the bit that never gets explained."

The cameras follow Vegas around his hometown of St Helens with occasional flashbacks to his glory days at Butlin's in Skegness.

"I never wanted personally to laugh at St Helens," Pennington insists, "because I live there, but this is the only place on earth where Johnny can exist: when we were filming, nobody said: 'What are you doing stood there looking like that?' All we'd get was: 'I haven't got time,' or: 'Sorry son, I think you're drunk.'"

We see Johnny hassling a hapless entertainment secretary at his local labour club, Johnny hassling an ice cream man, Johnny chased by a kite. "There's something of a care-in-the-community element to it," Pennington explains. "You look at Johnny and think: 'Why is somebody not looking after him during the day?' The feeling we wanted to get was: 'You shouldn't be laughing at this, but... Some people think it's too dark, but it couldn't be too dark.'"

Almost as compelling as Vegas's whirlpool of misplaced moral energy ("I deserve to be loved!") is the unforced naturalism of the people he comes up against. The secret of *The Johnny Vegas Show*'s imposingly realistic collection of ice cream men and park keepers is that they are ice cream men and park keepers.

"People have said: 'What's he been in before? I know I've seen him in something.' And we're like: 'You haven't, he's an ice cream man from St Helens.'"

If Pennington's primary motivation was not so obviously compassion, there might be a hint of Jeremy Beadle in all this. As it is, *The Johnny Vegas Television Show* offers



Johnny Vegas: 'Every now and then he ventures into the world and he's very, very bitter'

us not just a welcome riposte to the endless search for "characters" in documentary series whose intermingling of show-business and reality is demeaning to both, but also a revolution in TV's approach to the ordinary. "There's somebody like Johnny in everybody's community," Pennington insists. "This person talking to you who you think is a nutter quite possibly was Butlin's boy number one at some point - all he wanted to do was make people happy and he's been denied that."

Would it be fair to suggest there might be a political element to all of this? "I'd like to think it's a commentary, without being a lecture."

Perhaps this is why, where other comedians talk in terms of being true to comic traditions - Peter Sellers or Monty Python or whoever - Pennington talks about his work in terms of being true to the spirit of people in pubs. He stopped watching other people's comedy when he started to do his own.

"I'm always wary of aspiring to be

like someone else. It's like you're in a shop and you can't afford the stuff, so you look at a teapot and think: 'I'll go home and make my own,' and you do it and it looks nothing like the one you wanted, so why waste your time? Why not put your energy into making a teapot of your own?"

That teapot is on display now, and it's a lovely piece of work.

The Johnny Vegas Television Show is on Channel 4 this Sunday, 27 December, at 10.30pm

THIS WAS THE WEEK THAT WAS

Today In 1937 the first full-length colour cartoon was premiered: Disney's *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, which six decades later is still turning up at a multiplex near you. (Unlike *Petropolis*, the first black-and-white cartoon talkie, a political satire on a forgotten president of Argentina.)

Tomorrow The first revolving stage began whizzing around in 1758: wisely, it was extremely small-scale, at Kado-za Doll Theatre, Osaka, Japan.

Wednesday In 1888 the big news in art was that Van Gogh cut off his ear; he was depressed, not least because Gauguin was leaving their lodgings in Arles to escape the winter (and possibly Vincent's company).

Christmas Eve In 1822 *The Truth about Father Christmas*, the first play written for the wireless, by Phyllis M Twigg, became a branch of radio history. In 1974 the Christmas spirit did not extend to The Beatles: the Fab Four became four Fab Ones.

Christmas Day It wasn't until 1843 that Mitchell's Olympic Theatre in New York worked out what to do with a stage empty all day: they put on a matinee.

Boxing Day Britain's first ever pantomime was *Harlequin Executed*, at Lincoln's Inn Fields Theatre in 1717. Oh no it wasn't! Oh yes it was!

Sunday In 1904 *Peter Pan* opened in London, with Gerald du Maurier as Captain Hook. In Dublin the first state-subsidised theatre, the Abbey, presented plays by Lady Gregory and Mr Yeats.

JONATHAN SALE

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THE NEW ADVENTURES
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Hermès' new home in Manchester is now open. **Hermès**, 31 King Street, Manchester. Tel. 0161 834 5331.

The links that will revolutionise PCs

The home of the future will be as connected, or perhaps even better connected, than most of today's offices, if the predictions of Eric Benhamou, 3Com's president and chief executive officer, prove to be true. 3Com is one of the world leaders in computer networking equipment and, since its purchase of US Robotics last year, in modems, too. According to market research, 3Com is one of the most recognised computing brands in the United States. The company's public perception ranks alongside Hewlett-Packard - and even above that of Microsoft.

3Com was founded in 1979 in California; the company pioneered the ethernet networking standard. Ethernet is now used in offices worldwide, but in 1979, the idea of a PC, let alone a group of PCs that could share information, was very much in its infancy. In the last two decades, computer networks have become big business. Cheap and efficient networking helped the PC take on mainframe computers, and win. More recently, computer networks, in the form of the Internet, have started to capture the public imagination. The Net provides companies such as 3Com with an enormous, uncaptured market.

Computer users' desires for faster, smoother Internet access is a key driver of 3Com's success. The company has been at the forefront of developing more powerful modem technologies. Today's 56k modems are four times as fast as the standard modem three years ago, but they cost less. 3Com is heavily involved in developing devices to connect computers to cable networks, emerging technologies such as DSL (Digital Subscriber Line) and ISDN. It also makes connectors for GSM mobile phones and the RAM wireless data network. "The demand for faster Internet access is driven by many of the same applications we use now: e-mail with attachments, Web browsing, and research," Mr. Benhamou says. "Some of the new applications that come to life are streaming audio and video, either video conferencing, or video on demand. There are over 10,000 radio stations on the Internet today broadcasting audio content. With faster connections, it's likely that we will see digital audio sites that stream CD-quality audio into the home in the background while you're surfing the Web or e-mailing."

DSL, including the version BT is currently testing in west London, is an "always on" technology. Computers are permanently connected to the Internet, and there are no time-based charges for that connection. This feature, Mr Benhamou believes, will open up the real potential of the Internet for homes. "The Internet becomes far more compelling with persistent connections," he says. Faster access, suggests Mr Benhamou, will encourage us to rethink the way we use our computers, and the way they talk to each other. In developed computer markets, such as the United States, Germany and the UK, Benhamou points out, there are already multi-PC households. Sometimes this is



Eric Benhamou predicts falling PC prices will increase the Internet's popularity *Stephen Prutchard*

Internet, enabling a range of new applications like streaming multimedia.

Mr Benhamou predicts that falling PC prices will help the Internet to reach more homes, but his vision is not restricted to PCs. Away from the business market, developments such as Internet-based broadcasting or video on demand will encourage households to go online. It will also fuel development of Internet access devices that bear little resemblance to conventional PCs.

communications with telephony. The Siemens alliance gives 3Com valuable access to technologies more often associated with telecommunications. The joint venture is developing systems that integrate data, voice and video over single networks.

Phone handsets will become increasingly important ways to access the Internet too. Smartphones with built-in displays offer a low-cost way to connect households, especially to e-mail. Mobile phones will play their part, as will integrated mobile devices. In the US, 3Com has just announced the Palm 7, which has built-in access to the RAM network. In Europe, there will be a version built around GSM, and 3Com expects to develop organisers based around the Blue Tooth wireless communications system that is backed by companies such as Intel, TDK and Nokia.

The home network becomes the platform for these devices co-existing within the home," says Mr. Benhamou. "We anticipate that set-top boxes, smartphones, PCs and devices like the Palm will have network connections that will allow them to share information and Internet access within the home." "Think of what happened with electricity," he adds. "No one imagined they'd have hair-dryers or toasters when they wired the early homes. But the utility of power caused technology to take advantage of electricity. With an enabling 'utility' like a home network, appliances will spring up to keep consumers more connected to the people and information that matter to them."

*There are over 10,000
radio stations on the
Internet today
broadcasting audio
content*

Mr Benhamou believes the jury is still out on concepts such as Microsoft-backed web TV, but he can see the huge potential of devices which deliver Internet connectivity to the home TV set, especially for applications such as electronic banking or travel bookings. As important, he predicts, will be advances based around the telephone and handheld computers. 3Com is already the leader in the palmtop market with its Palm range of "connected organizers".

In July this year, 3Com entered into an alliance with Siemens, creating a joint venture that will integrate computer

ANDY OLDFIELD

AN INITIATIVE to develop a new secure method of distributing music over the Internet was announced last week in New York by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA); chief executives of the major US record firms, and representatives of technology firms such as AOL (which now owns CompuServe), Diamond Multimedia, Microsoft, RealNetworks, IBM and AT&T.

Work on the "Secure Digital Music Initiative" is set to get under way next year and will address the lack of compatibility between current competing technologies such as Liquid Audio and a2b, as well as the potential piracy problems and lack of copyright control associated with the *de facto* standard MP3 that is established among Net users.

The new standard will aim at developing a means of digital distribution to protect copyrighted material and allow labels and artists to engage in online commerce.

Record company executives said they did not envisage the new format bringing about lower prices.

However, some companies said that the industry response to MP3 is too little and too late. "MP3 is unstoppable. Any initiative now is like launching Betamax two years after VHS has become the standard," said Robert Kohn, the chairman of the independent music company, Goodnoise. "The real solution to piracy is to make music cheaper to buy than it is to steal."

THE JUDGE presiding over the Microsoft anti-trust trial in Washington said last week that AOL's proposed \$4.2bn buy-out of Netscape Communications and its co-operative deal with Sun Microsystems may have an "immediate effect" on the case. Microsoft's lawyers requested that, in light of the proposed merger, the judge re-open the evidence-gathering phase of the trial. Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson said he was

reluctant to allow this, but suggested instead that Microsoft be given a look at any documents gathered by the government in a review of the merger.

Department of Justice would be in possession of the operative documents [for the merger] and that Microsoft may have a right to review the terms," Jackson said. "It could have an immediate affect on the definition of the market as we are contemplating it here."

In a separate court case, Microsoft said it will appeal against a preliminary injunction requiring it to modify or withdraw some software products while it fights the lawsuit brought against it by Sun over its use of the Java programming language.

TALKS IN London between US Commerce Department and State Department officials and members of Privacy International (PI), a civil rights group based in the United Kingdom and

Washington, about an EU privacy directive, ended in stalemate last week. The directive, set to become law in all EU states, will give individuals control over their personal data and stop database-marketers, websites, credit card companies and others from exchanging personal data with countries that do not provide "adequate" protection of the data.

To prevent US companies' data transfers from being halted by the EU, the Clinton administration has proposed "safe harbours", based on self-regulation privacy guidelines used by commercial sites, such as notifying people about policies on collecting data; providing "opt out" facilities; and disclosing to whom the firm passes on the data. PI said the plans were not satisfactory and that Europe should not bend the rules to accommodate the US.

3Dx INTERACTIVE, the games chip manufacturer

announced that it will buy the graphics-card maker STB for \$141m. The deal is expected to be finalised in March. STB's operations will remain based in Richardson, Texas, with the combined company headquarters at 3Dfx's office in San Jose, California.

3Dfx said that William Ogle, the president and chief executive of STB, would join its board. Gordon Campbell will remain as chairman of 3Dfx.

Following the purchase, the company will manufacture entire 3D accelerator cards, rather than just the graphics chips. A new board based on its Voodoo3 chip will be produced. 3Dfx said the deal would provide its customers with a single source for its 3D graphics technology.

Although it intends to carry on supplying chips to Quantum 3D, which makes cards for arcade machines, it will probably stop supplying other PC card producers such as Creative and Diamond.

سكرا من الامل



Dancer DNA blends an ultra-Darwinist theory with high-speed computer graphics

Morphing to the sound of a hi-hat

Virtual DNA is the inspiration behind a new graphics package. By Matt Jones

Until recently, the only use for a PC in a nightclub was to count the takings at the end of the night. However, with their powerful graphics capabilities, they are now branching out into the entertainment side - not as games machines but alongside the light and laser systems of a club's visual arsenal.

Dancer DNA is a new software package that uses a "virtual DNA" string to create kaleidoscopic virtual lifeforms - mutate and grow in response to music. Hooked up to

a sound system and projector, it provides a mesmerising light show that is a perfect complement to the sensory overload of the leading London clubs.

What is most surprising, though, is that the inspiration for the software comes not from some hardcore clubber but from the leading evolutionary biologist Richard Dawkins, who was collaborating on a multimedia CD with Dancer DNA's creators, Notting Hill Publishing, the electronic publishing company created by Andreas Whittam Smith, the founder and former editor of this newspaper.

In *The Blind Watchmaker* Dawkins theorised that human

DNA and the binary information storage systems used by a computer were very similar. "Instead of just the two states 1 and 0, the information technology of living cells uses four states... There is very little difference, in principle, between a two-state binary information technology like ours, and a four-state information technology like that of the living cell."

Dancer DNA blends this ultra-Darwinist theory with high-speed computer graphics. Just about everything is customisable, from a creature's rate of morphing and spin to the threshold at which the effects take hold. A frequency analyser

allows the user to specify different parts of the music that it responds to (hi-hats, vocals, bass, etc) to trigger different effects, so the package can be programmed to accompany certain tracks. Dance music, with its defined peaks and troughs, is the ideal soundtrack to Dancer DNA; although it gave interesting results with many other genres, including heavy metal and country and western - as demonstrated at a recent show at the ICA in London.

There are 15 species provided on the CD, with more available from the Dancer DNA website. A few mouse clicks creates a "genespace" for your species and gets them dancing

to whatever music you have in your CD drive. Customising the species couldn't be easier - the cut'n/paste method ensures that new strains can be easily created and mutated.

Dancer DNA has already strutted its virtual stuff at the Blue Note, Orb and the End clubs in London, as well as on the BBC's *Clothes Show*, and is set to perform alongside New Order and Underworld at the Alexandra Palace New Year's Eve spectacular. Entertainment from evolutionary theory - who would have thought it?

Dancer DNA
(www.dancerdna.com),
£19.99; order on 01634 297123

The case of the empty e-mail

THERE IT WAS, again, in my e-mail inbox. For the fourth time in a few weeks, here was an e-mail with no subject or message text.

Like most people, I'm not fond of spammers. In fact, they drive me nuts. My old Internet connection was usage-based, meaning that the bill went up for every piece of spam received or transmitted through the gulker.com domain. When spammers hijacked my mail server earlier this year, I got downright testy.

As competition has driven down the price of spam software and mailing lists, the quality of spam has fallen tremendously, if you can accept the notion of "quality" and "spam" in the same phrase.

Spammers who misspell their pitch - in the subject line, no less - have become routine. Recent offerings include "aprodiesiac", "debt to high", "risk fee!", "for are clients", "frequent asked questions", "hot address's", and "co-branbing program". Worse, lately, not a few spammers who clog bandwidth with hundreds of thousands of missives have somehow neglected to actually include a message.

What, I wonder, prompts a person to go to the effort of buying spam software, sign up for an Internet account that will be suspended immediately after the first spam (at a loss of set-up charges and first month's fees), and then get to include a message? Are a few of us in the spam community running a few

packets short of a datagram?

So, to get back to my tale, here it was, the fourth subject-less, text-less message in a row. I figured it was spam, for sure. Curiously, this latest one had an attachment "notice.htm", which contained the following:

PGH0bWw+PHNjcmVudCBs
YW5ndWFzZT0iamF2YXNjc
mlwvCi+bmFzZT0id2lueHoi
Ozwvc2NyYXBOPgOKPGZyY
W1ic2V0IHVnd3M9JjEwJWw
qj48ZnJhbWUgc3JPSiodR
wOi8veHpsMy55ZWFOlM5I
dCjgcmFzZT0ibGR4ellgcm9
yZkNpemUgc2NyY2xsaW5n
PW5vPgOKPGZyYyY1IHhNyY
Z0laHR0cDovL3d3dy56aGF
uamhbmVudC2Z0uY24vbmV0
aG9zZS9zdXNpL3N6eC9pb
mRleC5odG0lIG5vcmVzaXNj
IHhjcmlsZGluZz1ubz4NCj
wvZnJhbWVzZXQ+PC9odG
1sPg==

Why, I wondered, would you bother to name something as if it were a Web page, attach it, and e-mail it if all it contained was garbage?

But, was it? ASCII text is encoded by a byte - an 8-bit binary number that can encode up to 256 characters. Since there are only 52 alphabet letters (26 lowercase and 26 uppercase) in an ASCII set, most true random garbage mainly contains the weird punctuation and figures that are encoded by the other 204 numbers.

But this missive contains mainly letters, along with a few other characters. Letters and "regular"

punctuation are "safe" characters, that is to say, they probably don't represent binary commands. Many Internet transport protocols require that data be transmitted as only "safe" characters, lest a router or computer interpret them as a command to, say, reset or shut down.

Could this be a kind of encoding? The plot thickens!

My modern e-mail client hides most of the stuff that's attached to an e-mail message like Internet headers and MIME specs. Thoughtfully, it has a "View source code" menu item that allows the user to see all the gory details. "View source" revealed the line: "Content-Transfer-Encoding: Base 64."

Aha! Base 64 is another encoding scheme that uses

safe characters. Now all I needed was a Base 64 decoder. A quick visit to a freeware/shareware site revealed nothing, since most modern e-mail packages have built-in decoders (and who knows why mine wasn't kicking in?). Fortunately, Sherlock, my Mac's find-it program, turned up a folder called "YA Base 64" on an old, long-neglected hard drive connected to one of the oldest computers gathering dust on gulker.com's LAN.

"YA" in freeware parlance stands for "Yet Another". Freeware programmers, God bless their souls, are like any other community - they have vogues and fads. Whenever a bunch of programmers tackle the same topic, like decoder utilities, they not infrequently name the result "YA-something, as in YA-Newsatcher for a Yet Another Usenet news reader. The program's creation date was 1996. Vintage software! I wondered if it would run.

It did. But when I dropped "notice.htm" on it, nothing happened. Back to the drawing board.

Inspiration struck - notice.htm was devoid of the content encoding string and other markers - words like "BEGIN" or "Cut Here" to find the bits to decode. I saved the e-mail to disk, and dropped it on the decoder - a new "notice.htm" file appeared immediately. I dropped it on my browser.

A page appeared, a Java applet launched, question marks began to parade across the browser's bottom border, a new window appeared and the browser suddenly transported itself to a site (<http://www.zhanjiang.gd.cn/>). But ".cn"? This was in China!

One of the windows began to display a mesmerising 3D graphic, while a "Christmas Benediction" scrolled. In another window a photo collage appeared, and then, suddenly, its surface rippled as if a drop of water had fallen in a still pool covering the image. Then a wave undulated from one corner to the other. The effects were dazzling, and had downloaded so fast from a server across the Pacific, that I knew these were no mere animated GIF files. I clicked on the image.

A new window appeared: "Wormhole Applet by Fabio Ciucci", with the line "You can connect to my page" and a button. I clicked the button. We were transported to: <http://www.aniteatro.it/java.html> - Italy, this time.

Another wizzy rippling image appeared. Fabio is a programmer, and his Java applets are for sale.

Thirty minutes of detective work on three continents, only to find I'd spammed myself! Fabio, you're one brilliant spammer (the alternative is I'm the world's dumbest spammer). Oi vey.

cg@gulker.com



CHRIS GULKER
Spamming is one of the curses of the Internet age, and often seems one of the most pointless, too

BT

To: hamish@talk21.com
From: mum@talk21.com
Subject: RE: greetings

Just make sure you wrap up warm

Mum xxx

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IT for All

Are you surfing comfortably?

For the festive season, I want to give all of my readers a special present: a universal remote control for your website. Whether you are channel surfing or web surfing, a remote control can make the experience more convenient and more comfortable.

With the telly, a remote control is a small device with buttons which is used to change the content on the big screen. On the Web, the remote is a small browser window that contains links to change the content in the main browser window.

If you have any problems with this code, or you would like to see a working example of the remote control, visit: <http://www.webbedev.com/examples/49.html>.

To set up your remote control, the basic idea is to use JavaScript to open a new window and then place an HTML

WEB DESIGN



JASON CRANFORD TEAGUE

file in it with the links that make up the remote. The remote is opened from the main browser window which, in this example, is set up as two horizontal frames.

The top frame (menu) will have the link used to open up the remote control and the bottom frame (content) will be what the remote control targets its links into.

```
<FRAMESET ROWS="50,"
>
<FRAME SRC="menu.html"
NAME="menu">
<FRAME
SRC="p1.html"
NAME="content">
</FRAMESET>
```

Opening the Remote Control
Using the JavaScript open method, we create a function called remoteOpen() which is placed in a <SCRIPT LANGUAGE="JavaScript">...</SCRIPT> in the <HEAD> of the menu.html file.

```
var remote = null;
function remoteOpen() {
    remote =
    window.open("remote.html",
    "remote", "width=100,height=
    250");
    window.remote.focus();
}
```

When activated, this function

will create a new window called "remote" with a width of 100 pixels and a height of 250 pixels. The new window will contain the file remote.html which is a run-of-the-mill HTML file. Unlike a standard window, however, the remote window will not have menus, browser navigation (ie, back and forward arrows), the current URL listing or anything other than the border around the window. The border - called the "chrome" - does include the standard close-window button in the upper right corner, allowing the visitor to close the remote at any time, but all of the 100x250 area is reserved for the file being loaded into the remote.

Notice also that the remoteOpen() function gives the remote focus - that is, it will place it on top of any other windows on the screen. Otherwise, if the remote window were already open, but covered by another window, it would

simply reload without coming to the front. This can be very confusing to visitors to your site if they hit the link to reopen the remote and nothing appears. Speaking of which...

To open the remote, we have to run the remoteOpen() function. There are several ways to do this, including having it open automatically when the main browser window opens. However, it is a good idea to include a link that will allow visitors to open the remote if they close it or to bring the remote to the front if it disappears behind another window.

```
<A HREF="javascript:remoteOp
en()">Remote</A>
```

Targeting Links Back to the Main Window
So what goes into the remote control? Anything that you could put into an HTML document, but you need to keep in mind that it has to fit into the

dimensions you defined in the remoteOpen() function. If you want links from the remote to appear in the main window, simply target the links to the content frame.

```
<A HREF="p1.html"
TARGET="content">Page
1</A>
<A HREF="p2.html"
TARGET="content">Page
2</A>
<A HREF="p3.html"
TARGET="content">Page
3</A>
```

The above links are in remote.html but they target their links back into the content frame in the main window.

Closing the Remote
The visitor can close the remote control by using the remote window's built-in close button, but what happens if the visitor leaves your site without closing the remote? Good manners dictate that you should clean up

after yourself. To that end, place the remoteClose() function in menu.html.

```
function remoteClose() {
    if (remote != null)
    {
        (window.remote.document
        != null)
        { remote.close(); }
        else { return; }
    }
}
```

This function first checks to see if the remote is open. If it is, the function closes the window. Place an onUnload event handler into the <BODY> tag of menu.html.

```
<BODY
onUnload="remoteClose()">
```

Now, when the visitor goes to a new website, and the menu.html file is unloaded, the remote will automatically disappear.

remote is good for much, much more! **Sidebar Navigation:** The simplest use of the remote control is to replace the sidebar navigation often used in websites. Check out the real cool remote in Entropy8 (<http://www.entropy8.com/>). **Web Tour:** If you have a page of your favourite websites, you might consider placing them into a remote control. **Control Pad:** You can also make the remote into a control pad to add functionality to the site.

Kairos (<http://english.ttu.edu/kairos/8.2/>) uses a remote control with two frames: the left frame has the links while the right frame can display information about the journal, search engine links, and links to other materials.

Season's greetings. Enjoy your new toy.

E-mail Jason at indy_webdesign@mindspring.com

WEBSITES

BILL PANNIFER



Keeping track of Santa
www.santatracker.com/html/santatracker.html

Santa's progress is here observed with military precision. Departure from the North Pole on 24 December will be video-monitored, the reindeer radar-tracked, and meteorological reports constantly updated. The site features real-time sleigh systems evaluation and even a special night-vision facility. Special flashing alerts will warn viewers as he zeros in to make his home deliveries.

Jollier, if less topical, thrills at Claus Com's animated theme park (www2.claus.com), where kids anxiously awaiting their stocking can check their personal "naughty" or "nice" rating in advance. Another

hopeful (www.santa-claus.com) chuckles away while claiming to have been online since 1672. Meanwhile, Lycos offers a Java Race Your Reindeers game (www.lycos.co.uk/webguides/special/xmas/race/index.html).

Simplify the festive hois
www.newdream.org/holiday

Conspicuous Christmas consumption is under attack at this site: the US produces five million extra tons of rubbish over the festive period and this site suggests creating less waste. Visitors send in unusual, ecologically sound gift ideas - "my parents sponsored a panther in my name at the zoo" - and there are proposals for gifts of time rather than money, as well as some rather strained

alternative carols. Also on patrol is a Commercialism Cop to bust premature seasonal mania, such as the Maryland shop which put up its tree in July.

Links lead to other recycled presents, such as the ever-popular ornaments made from freebie AOL CDs (www.neosoft.com/aolcds), which this year include a Nativity Scene and a Jingle Bell Necklace.

Frankenfurby is promised
www.furby.com/furby/index.html

Christmas is a time of worldwide communication, and where Esperanto failed, the Furby could well succeed. The official site for this year's hard-to-get toy includes a Furbyish dictionary - with sound clips (happy = noo-

loo; tickle = nee-tye; maybe, oddly enough, = may-bee) - and the chance to send a festive shot of one of the furry pests posing in front of the Taj Mahal.

As no one actually believes in Santa anymore, this year's dose of disillusionment could perhaps come from the Furby Autopsy Site (www.phobos.com/furby/), which gives instructions for unpeeling skin, ears and

carapace, right down to the motor and CPU. One specimen is being kept on ice before being modified, using electric cooker parts, and resurrected as Frankenfurby. "We find him much more amusing dead than alive," muse the webmasters.

Praying by fingers
www.cofe.anglican.org

Not much sign of Christmas here as yet. The self-proclaimed "young and modest", though well-designed, official site includes a brief history of the church and its organisation; key statistics; and will soon offer sections ranging from major social issues to planning one's own funeral. As well as a daily online service, there is also personal advice on "How to

Pray", with suggestions for using each finger to represent different prayer goals - digital worship in its most literal sense. But some of the ideas sound a bit New Agey: focusing on a feather is recommended. Links lead to individual diocesan and other sites: for more C of E news and discussion try Anglicans Online (anglicans.org/online).

Iraq's touch of peace
christmas.com/worldview

Click on a map for accounts of celebrations worldwide, at this newly enlarged section of this otherwise self-infested site.

Lots of fascinating detail - Icelanders, it seems, believe in 13 Santas, all descended from the mythical Gryla the Ogre. And interesting festive grub includes

figgy pudding and Finnish kaffi bulla to raw oysters.

Too often country links lead to a dead end - "We are currently looking for contributions for Myanmar (Burma)".

But there remains much multicultural variety, as well as some universal aspirations: "In Iraq... after the service, the bishop blesses one person with a touch. Then that person touches the person next to him or her. Finally everyone has the 'touch of peace' on Christmas Day."

But nothing, of course, about US cruise missiles to celebrate the start of Ramadan.

Send interesting, quirky or, at a pinch, cool site recommendations to websites@dircon.co.uk

SOCIAL SURVEY INTERVIEWERS

Are you looking for a job in which you get to meet people from a variety of backgrounds? If you are, the Social Survey Division of ONS has vacancies for interviewers in the following areas: Birmingham, Crawley, Liverpool, Manchester, Reading, Swindon, Teesdale and all London Boroughs.

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Send a postcard with your name, address and telephone number to SSD Recruitment & Training Unit, Office for National Statistics (D1/O5), 1 Drummond Gate, London SW1V 2DQ.

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Comms/Control

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NEW FILMS

THE PRINCE OF EGYPT (U)
Director: Brenda Chapman, Simon Wells.
Voice: Val Kilmer, Ralph Fiennes, Michelle Pfeiffer.
DreamWorks' boisterous Jeffrey Katzenberg envisaged his cartoon *Life of Moses* "painted by Claude Monet and photographed by David Lean". The end result winds up as *The Ten Commandments* by way

of Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

GENERAL RELEASE

ANTZ (PG)
See *The Independent Recommends*, right.
West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Phoenix Cinema, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

BABE: PIG IN THE CITY (U)
In the follow-up to *Babe*, knockabout comedy is kept to a minimum in favour of a bleak animatronic fairytale. West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Rio Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

BLADE (18)
A techno soundtrack bumps and grinds behind this monotonous arcade-game thriller about a New York vampire-killer tackling a power-crazed new bloodsucker. Noise and martial-arts action mask its tinny pedigree.
West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

THE BOYS (18)
Out of jail after serving a sentence for GBH, oldest "boy" Brett Sprague (David Wenham) moves back into his mum's drab suburban home, terrorises his girlfriend and turns his younger brothers into petty henchmen. *The Boys* spotlights the downside of life Down Under - it's potent, predatory stuff.
West End: Metro, Ritzy Cinema

DANCING AT LUGHNASSA (PG)
Less a dance, more of a trudge, this Ireland-set saga is given backbone by Meryl Streep's regal performance. West End: Curzon Mayfair, Notting Hill Coronet, Rio Cinema

DEAD MAN'S CURVE (15)
Writer-director Dan Rosen must have had some terrible experiences at university. All the students at his nameless American college are trying to butcher each other, led into temptation by an obscure regulation that awards straight-A grades to the room-mates of suicides. Though not as deliciously nasty as the *Scream* films, *Dead Man's Curve* delivers a respectable quota of drive-in shocks.
West End: ABC Piccadilly

ELIZABETH (15)
Elizabeth Kapur's follow-up to *Bend Sinister* is the story of a female figurehead struggling to gain purchase in a male world. But Kapur largely neglects the opportunities for fun in a story of independence triumphing over cruelty.
West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Haymarket, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Virgin Fulham Road

FEAR AND LOATHING IN LAS VEGAS (18)
Terry Gilliam's adaptation tilts at Ralph Steadman cartoonery for its tale of a drug-fuelled journalistic assignment. The film soon descends into a carnival of narcotic lunacy, with the one stand-out being Johnny Depp - who brings Hunter S. Thompson into bald-headed, pigeon-toed life.
West End: ABC Baker Street, Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Camden Town, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Haymarket

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (U)
See *The Independent Recommends*, right.
West End: Curzon Soho, Gate Notting Hill, Richmond Filmhouse, Ritzy Cinema

LEFT LUGGAGE (PG)
An uncertain soap opera, focusing on the ebbs and flows within a Hasidic family in 1970s Holland. Fitful as drama, the film comes to life as a showcase for its high-profile performers plus rising star Laura Fraser.
West End: ABC Swiss Centre, Curzon Minerva, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Phoenix Cinema, Richmond Filmhouse, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Hill

LOCK, STOCK AND TWO SMOKING BARRELS (18)
Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels follows the lead of Tarantino, but the film's defining characteristic is its resilient morality.
West End: ABC Pantan Street, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Mezzanine, Warner Village West End

THE MASK OF ZORRO (PG)
This gaudy swashbuckler gallops full speed through 19th-century California in the company of Antonio Banderas's authentically Hispanic go-gooder. A bite-sized history lesson on West Coast politics struggles amid a lot of colourful duels and clattering set-pieces.
West End: Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road

MULAN (U)
In Disney's animated feature, a girl disguises herself as a soldier to spare her ailing father from the certain death of combat. This set-up has got it all: a pro-active heroine who does not want to tend a man or pet woodland animals; a strong father/daughter relationship; honour and nobility; and, of course, cross-dressing. It's also one of the most visually innovative movies that Disney has ever made.
West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Warner Village West End

MY NAME IS JOE (15)
See *The Independent Recommends*, right.
West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Hill, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket

THE NEGOTIATOR (15)
Samuel L. Jackson and Kevin Spacey go head to head in Gray's thrilling drama. The script has a predilection for funk-headed swearing that sounds uneasy in the mouths of such articulate, rhetorical performers. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Marble Arch, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

OUT OF SIGHT (15)
George Clooney plays the law-breaking hero as a down-and-dirty version of Cary Grant, and turns in the best performance of his career so far. He seems to be a grown-up film star when most of Hollywood's male heart-throbs don't look old enough to get served in a pub. West End: Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square, Gate Notting Hill, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

THE PARENT TRAP (PG)
The Parent Trap catches Disney cannibalising its own back catalogue; re-heating its 1961 Hayley Mills heart-warmer into a spry, cross-cultural caper starring Lindsay Lohan as the separated-at-birth twin sisters (one British, one American) determined to get their parents (Natalie Richardson, Dennis Quaid) back together.
West End: Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea

A PERFECT MURDER (15)
With Hollywood awash with dumb re-makes, the news that Hitchcock's classic *M for Murder* was to be rehashed did not bode well. But this is gold-plated trash: the sort of thing Hollywood does better than anyone else. West End: ABC Pantan Street, Warner Village West End

THE PHILADELPHIA STORY (U)
Sublime cinema. It's a fast-talking romantic comedy, of course, but there's nothing silly or trivial about it. George Cukor's movie has a strange and melancholy beat and Katherine Hepburn's unsatisfied heiress sheds real tears.
West End: Curzon Soho, Renoir

PLAYING GOD (18)
Cracker director Andy Wilson suffers a rude lesson in Hollywood politics with this glossy but garbled thriller about a junkie doctor (David Duchovny) embroiled with a gang of counterfeiters headed by a hammy Tim Hutton.
West End: Warner Village West End

RONIN (15)
See *The Independent Recommends*, right.
West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road

RUSH HOUR (15)
Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker star in this hit-and-miss affair. West End: Elephant & Castle Coronet, Gate Notting Hill, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

SLUMS OF BEVERLY HILLS (18)
See *The Independent Recommends*, right.
West End: ABC Piccadilly, ABC Shaftesbury Avenue

TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE (18)
Once ridiculously held up as a video nasty, *Tobe Hooper's* thriller-chiller is, rather, a unholo celebration of the blood-lust urges within white-trash America, ushering a bunch of generic teens to their doom among a family of unemployed slaughtermen. Explicit violence is thin on the ground; instead it's the alien, voodoo mood which dominates. West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY (15)
The latest comedy from the tasteless writer-director team of Peter and Bobby Farrelly. The film is basically a soft-centred romantic comedy of the kind that drifts out of Hollywood on a regular basis. The gags never amount to more than vulgar icing on an unexceptionally bland cake. West End: Odeon Mezzanine, Screen on the Green, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket

VELVET GOLDMINE (18)
Jonathan Rhys Myers plays as a Bowie-esque idol in glitter make-up; his friend and mentor Curt Wild (Ewan McGregor) is a self-destructive US rocker in the Lou Reed-Iggy Pop mould. The story of how these characters are bound together is told in a film brimming with intelligent ideas.
West End: Curzon Soho, Rio Cinema

LA VIE REVUE DES ANGES (THE DREAM LIFE OF ANGELS) (18)
Isa (Klodian Bozhe) is a gamine but impoverished drifter who meets Marie (Natacha Regnier) while tempting at a clothes sweatshop. They become friends and move in together in a stunning first feature for Erick Zonta.
West End: ABC Swiss Centre, Curzon Minerva, Phoenix Cinema, Screen on the Green

THE WISDOM OF CROCODILES (15)
Jude Law plays a contemporary vampire who wines and dines his victims before he goes for the jugular. West End: ABC Pantan Street

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

My Name Is Joe (15)
All that one would expect from a Ken Loach film - humour, indignation and emotional sympathy - driven by Peter Mullan's scarily intense performance as a recovering alcoholic.

Antz (PG)
Computer-animated comedy voiced by a stellar cast stars Woody Allen as a worker ant who becomes an unlikely opponent of the colony's totalitarian regime. Good fun, and Allen's best work in a while.

Slums of Beverly Hills (15)
Tamara Jenkins' feature debut (*right*) is a modest but winning rite-of-passage movie about a family coping with poverty in LA's richest suburb. Alan Arkin gives an acting masterclass as the dad.

Ronin (15)
John Frankenheimer's action thriller is buttressed by a fine international cast (Robert De Niro, Jean Reno, Stellan Skarsgard), moody French locations and a clutch of supercharged car chases.

It's a Wonderful Life (U, Curzon Soho)
Despite its reputation as a national treasure, Frank Capra's hymn to small-town selflessness is fraught with all kinds of contradictions and blind spots. James Stewart, granted a vision of how life would have been had he never been born, is magnificent in the lead role.

ANTHONY QUINN

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

Hindale Wakes
Royal Exchange, Manchester
Spectacularly refurbished after the 1996 bombing, this theatre bounces back in fine resilient form with the excellent production which had to be aborted then. To 9 Jan

Martin Guerre
West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds
It's third time lucky for this much-rewritten Bouffl/Schönberg musical. In Connal Morrison's starkly involving production, it finally emerges as a tighter, magnificent show. To 13 Feb

The Invention of Love
Theatre Royal, Haymarket
Witty fantasia by Tom Stoppard on the twin passions of AE Houseman: scholarship and an unavailable heterosexual friend. To 4 Apr

Copenhagen
Cottesloe, National Theatre
Michael Frayn's profound and haunting meditation on science, morality and the mysteries of human motivation (*above*). To 27 Jan

The Boy Who Fell Into a Book
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough
Typically witty and ingenious concept from Alan Ayckbourn - here wearing his children's dramatist hat. To 9 Jan

PAUL TAYLOR

THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

Louise Bourgeois Serpentine Gallery
Veteran French-American sculptress, still a leading light at 87, shows new installations in which a giant mother/spider presides over images of spinning and weaving, restoration and decay. To 10 Jan

Claude Lorrain British Museum
One hundred drawings by the great French classical landscape painter, including his remarkably vivid outdoor studies of woods and streams. To 10 Jan

Bridget Riley
Abbott Hall, Kendal
A small retrospective, spanning the career of top British abstractionist Riley - from the shimmering monochromes of her early Sixties Op Art fame, to colour, stripes, diagonals and curves. To 31 Jan

Edward Burne-Jones
Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery
Centenary exhibition gathers together many favourites illustrating Burne-Jones's romantic and medievalist nether world. To 17 Jan

Chris Ofili Whitworth Gallery, Manchester
The 1998 Turner Prize winner (*above*) is an upbeat original, his surfaces dense and decorative, with swirls of dots, eyes, Afros and black icons, and incorporating mutant balls of elephant dung. To 24 Jan

TOM LUBBOCK

CINEMA

WEST END

ABC BAKER STREET
(0870 9020418) @ Baker Street
Babe: Pig in the City 12.00pm, 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 10.30pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.10pm, 7.10pm, 9.10pm, 11.10pm

ABC PANTAN STREET
(0870 902 0404) @ Piccadilly
The Last Days of Disco 1.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.10pm, 7.10pm, 9.10pm, 11.10pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.10pm, 7.10pm, 9.10pm, 11.10pm

ABC PICCADILLY
(0171-287 4322) (from 1pm)
@ Piccadilly
Curzon Dead Man's Curve 4.05pm, 8.45pm
Hamam: The Turkish Bath 1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm, 10.50pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE
(0870 902 0402) @ Leicester
Square/Tottenham Court Road
Slums of Beverly Hills 1.05pm, 3.25pm, 5.45pm, 7.05pm, 9.05pm, 11.35pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE
(0870 902 0403) @ Leicester
Square/Piccadilly Circus
Angel Shark 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 5.50pm, 7.15pm, 9.10pm, 11.35pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD
(0870 902 0414) @ Tottenham
Court Road
Antz 1.15pm, 3.35pm, 5.55pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm, 11.35pm

BARBICAN SCREEN
(0171-638 8891) @ Barbican
The Mask of Zorro 3pm, 6pm, 8.40pm, 11.20pm

CHELSEA CINEMA
(0171-351 3742) @ Sloane
Square
On Cornhill at Chanson 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.35pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE
(0171-498 3323) @ Clapham
Common
Babe: Pig in the City 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm, 11.45pm

CURZON MAYFAIR
(0171-265 1720) @ Green Park
Dancing at Lughnassa 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 9pm

CURZON MINERVA
(0171-369 1723) @ Hyde Park
Corner
Left Luggage 2.50pm, 6.50pm, 10.45pm

CURZON SOHO
(0171-734 2255) (12pm-6pm)
@ Leicester Square/Tottenham
Court Road
The Last Days of Disco 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 5.50pm, 7.10pm, 9.10pm, 11.30pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE
(0990-888990) @ Leicester
Square
Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 5.50pm, 7.10pm, 9.10pm, 11.30pm

GATE NOTTING HILL
(0171-727 4031) @ Notting Hill
Gate It's a Wonderful Life 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm, 11.10pm

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN
(0870-907 0718) @ Ravenscourt
Park/Hammersmith
Babe: Pig in the City 12.00pm, 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 10.30pm

ICA CINEMA
(0171-930 3647) @ Charing
Cross
Bianca 5pm, 7pm, 9pm
Messa e Finita 9pm Zero de
Conduite 6.30pm, 8.30pm

METRO
(0171-734 1506) @ Piccadilly
Circus/Leicester Square
The Boys 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm, 11.30pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET
(0171-727 6705) @ Notting Hill
Gate
Dancing at Lughnassa 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN
(08705-050007) @ Camden Town
Babe: Pig in the City 11.55am, 1.55pm, 3.55pm, 5.55pm, 7.55pm, 9.55pm

ODEON KENSINGTON
(08705-050007) @ High Street
Kensington
Babe: Pig in the City 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 5.40pm, 8.55pm

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE
(08705-050007) @ Leicester
Square
The Mask of Zorro 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.20pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH
(08705-050007) @ Marble Arch
Babe: Pig in the City 12.15pm, 2.15pm, 4.15pm, 6.15pm, 8.15pm, 10.15pm

ODEON MEZZANINE
(08705-050007) @ Leicester
Square
Elizabeth 12.35pm, 2.35pm, 4.35pm, 6.35pm, 8.35pm, 10.35pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE
(08705-050007) @ Swiss
Cottage
Babe: Pig in the City 1.25pm, 3.45pm, 5.45pm, 7.45pm, 9.45pm, 11.45pm

ODEON TROCADERO
(0870-907 0716) @ Piccadilly
Circus
Antz 12.10pm, 2.10pm, 4.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.10pm, 10.10pm

ODEON WEST END
(08705-050007) @ Leicester
Square
The Parent Trap 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 5.50pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm, 11.50pm

PEPSI MAX CINEMA
(0171-494 4133) @ Piccadilly
Circus
Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 5.50pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm, 11.50pm

PHOENIX CINEMA
(0171-444 6789) @ East Finchley
Antz 12pm Left Luggage 1.50pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm, 11.10pm

PLAZA
(0990-888990) @ Piccadilly Circus
Antz 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 5.45pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm, 11.45pm

RENOIR
(0171-837 8402) @ Russell
Square
On Cornhill at Chanson 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 5.50pm, 7.10pm, 9.10pm, 11.30pm

RIO CINEMA
(0171-254 6677) @ Dalston
Kingsland
Babe: Pig in the City 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

RITZY CINEMA
(0171-733 2229) @ Brixton
Antz 12.05pm, 2.05pm, 4.05pm, 6.05pm, 8.05pm, 10.05pm

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET
(0171-935 2772) @ Baker Street
Left Luggage 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 10.30pm

SCREEN ON THE HILL
(0171-435 3366) @ Belsize Park
Left Luggage 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 10.30pm

UCI WHITELEYS
(0990-888990) @ Queensway
Babe: Pig in the City 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm, 11.30pm

VERGIN CINEMA
(0870-907 0710) @ Sloane
Square/South Kensington
Antz 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.15pm, 6.15pm, 8.15pm, 10.15pm

VERGIN FULHAM ROAD
(0870-907 0711) @ South
Kensington
Babe: Pig in the City 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm, 11.15pm

VERGIN TROCADERO
(0870-907 0716) @ Piccadilly
Circus
Antz 12.10pm, 2.10pm, 4.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.10pm, 10.10pm

VERGIN WEST END
(08705-050007) @ Leicester
Square
The Parent Trap 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 5.50pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm, 11.50pm

VERGIN WHITELEYS
(0870-907 0712) @ Piccadilly
Circus
Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas 1.25pm, 3.25pm, 5.25pm, 7.25pm, 9.25pm, 11.25pm

VERGIN TROCADERO
(0870-907 0716) @ Piccadilly
Circus
Antz 12.10pm, 2.10pm, 4.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.10pm, 10.10pm

VERGIN WEST END
(08705-050007) @ Leicester
Square
The Parent Trap 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 5.50pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm, 11.50pm

VERGIN WHITELEYS
(0870-907 0712) @ Piccadilly
Circus
Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas 1.25pm, 3.25pm, 5.25pm, 7.25pm, 9.25pm, 11.25pm

VERGIN TROCADERO
(0870-907 0716) @ Piccadilly
Circus
Antz 12.10pm, 2.10pm, 4.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.10pm, 10.10pm

LOCK, STOCK & TWO SMOKING BARRELS
1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm, 11.20pm, 1.30pm, 4.00pm, 6.30pm, 9.00pm, 11.30pm

LOCK, STOCK & TWO SMOKING BARRELS
1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm, 11.20pm, 1.30pm, 4.00pm, 6.30pm, 9.00pm, 11.30pm

LOCK, STOCK & TWO SMOKING BARRELS
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LOCK, STOCK & TWO SMOKING BARRELS
1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm, 11.20pm, 1.30pm, 4.00pm, 6.30pm, 9.00pm, 11.30pm

LOCK, STOCK & TWO SMOKING BARRELS
1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm, 11.20pm, 1.30pm, 4.00pm, 6.30pm, 9.00pm, 11.30pm

GOLDERS GREEN

ABC (0181-455 1724) • Golders Green The Prince of Egypt 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm

GREENWICH

CINEMA (0181-293 0101) BR: Greenwich Anz 1.10pm Elizabeth 2.45pm The Mask of Zorro 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.40pm, 10.25pm The Prince of Egypt 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm, 10.25pm Rush Hour 4pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm

HAMPSTEAD

ABC (0870-9020413) • Belsize Park Babes in the City 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm The Parent Trap 2.20pm, 5.25pm, 8.10pm The Prince of Egypt 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm

HARROW

SAFARI (0181-426 0303) • Harrow-on-the-Hill/Harrow & Wealdstone Doolittle 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm The Prince of Egypt 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm

HARROW

SAFARI (0181-426 0303) • Harrow-on-the-Hill/Harrow & Wealdstone Doolittle 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm The Prince of Egypt 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm

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HARROW

SAFARI (0181-426 0303) • Harrow-on-the-Hill/Harrow & Wealdstone Doolittle 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm The Prince of Egypt 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm

THEATRE
WEST END

Ticket availability details are for today; times and prices for the week; running times include intervals. Seats at all prices. Seats at some prices. Returns at some prices. [1] Sun, [2] Mon, [3] Tue, [4] Wed, [5] Thur, [6] Fri, [7] Sat.

ALAMIS AND EXCURSIONS Michael Fray's new comedy about a dinner party which is interrupted by mysterious messages stars Felicity Kendal and Josie Lawrence. Gielgud Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065) • Picc Cir. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5][7] 3pm, £19.50-£27.50, 130 mins.

AMADEUS David Suchet stars as Salieri in Peter Shaffer's acclaimed drama. Old Vic Theatre SE1 (0171-928 7615) • Picc Cir. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 3pm, £7.50-£30, 180 mins.

ANNE Rags to riches story of the optimistic orphan, Victoria Palace Theatre, SW1 (0171-834 1317) BR/VE Victoria, Tue-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, [1] 3pm, £7.50-£30, 165 mins.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Lavish family musical based on Disney's cartoon version of the favourite fairy tale. Dominion Theatre, Court Road, W1 (0171-556 1888) • Picc Cir. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 3pm, £18.50-£35, 150 mins.

BLOOD BROTHERS Willy Russell's long-running Liverpool musical melodrama. Phoenix Cinema, Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1733) • Picc Cir. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5] 3pm, [7] 4pm, £11.50-£32.50, 165 mins.

BOOGIE NIGHTS Shane Richie stars in a brand new 1970s musical. Savoy Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888) • Picc Cir. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 3pm, £11.50-£32.50, 165 mins.

CATS Lloyd Webber's musical version of T.S. Eliot's poems. New London Theatre, 30 St Martin's Lane, W1 (0171-404 4079) • Picc Cir. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 3pm, £11.50-£32.50, 165 mins.

CHICAGO Maria Friedman and Peter Davison star in this hit Broadway musical about two murderous women and their nightclub act. Adelphi Theatre, 101 St Martin's Lane, W1 (0171-404 4079) • Picc Cir. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 3pm, £11.50-£32.50, 165 mins.

CINDERELLA Angela Carter's version of this fairytale is staged by the acclaimed Improv Theatre. Lyric Hammersmith Theatre, W6 (0181-741 2311) • Hammersmith. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 3pm, £11.50-£32.50, 165 mins.

FAME THE MUSICAL Eight-act stage version of the TV series charting the highs and lows of a class of young showbiz hopefuls. Prince of Wales Theatre, W1 (0171-839 5972) • Picc Cir. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 3pm, £11.50-£32.50, 165 mins.

FILUMENA Judi Dench and Michael Pennington star in Timberlake Wertenbaker's new translation of Eduardo de Filippo's play. Piccadilly Theatre, W1 (0171-369 1733) • Picc Cir. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 3pm, £11.50-£32.50, 165 mins.

GREASE Energetic stage version of the hit film about life in an American high school. Cambridge Theatre, WC2 (0171-494 5080) • Picc Cir. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 3pm, £11.50-£32.50, 165 mins.

AN IDEAL HUSBAND Christopher Cazenove and Susannah York in Peter Hall's acclaimed production of Wilde's comedy. Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045) • Picc Cir. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4] 3pm, [7] 4pm, £8.50-£29.50, 165 mins.

AN INSPECTOR CALLS Stephen Daldry's well-acclaimed production of J.B. Priestley's thriller. Garrick Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5085) • Picc Cir. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4] 3pm, [7] 4pm, £8.50-£29.50, 165 mins.

WOOD GREEN NEW CURZON (0181-347 6664) • Turpin Lane Fire Arm Club Kuch Hota Hai 2.30pm

WOODFORD ABC (0181-989 3463) • South Woodford Anz 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm The Prince of Egypt 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm

WOOLWICH CORONET (0181-554 3043) BR: Woolwich Arsenal Babes in the City 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm The Prince of Egypt 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm

WOOLWICH CORONET (0181-554 3043) BR: Woolwich Arsenal Babes in the City 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm The Prince of Egypt 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm

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THEATRE
WEST END

Ticket availability details are for today; times and prices for the week; running times include intervals. Seats at all prices. Seats at some prices. Returns at some prices. [1] Sun, [2] Mon, [3] Tue, [4] Wed, [5] Thur, [6] Fri, [7] Sat.

ALAMIS AND EXCURSIONS Michael Fray's new comedy about a dinner party which is interrupted by mysterious messages stars Felicity Kendal and Josie Lawrence. Gielgud Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065) • Picc Cir. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5][7] 3pm, £19.50-£27.50, 130 mins.

AMADEUS David Suchet stars as Salieri in Peter Shaffer's acclaimed drama. Old Vic Theatre SE1 (0171-928 7615) • Picc Cir. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 3pm, £7.50-£30, 180 mins.

ANNE Rags to riches story of the optimistic orphan, Victoria Palace Theatre, SW1 (0171-834 1317) BR/VE Victoria, Tue-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, [1] 3pm, £7.50-£30, 165 mins.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Lavish family musical based on Disney's cartoon version of the favourite fairy tale. Dominion Theatre, Court Road, W1 (0171-556 1888) • Picc Cir. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 3pm, £18.50-£35, 150 mins.

BLOOD BROTHERS Willy Russell's long-running Liverpool musical melodrama. Phoenix Cinema, Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1733) • Picc Cir. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5] 3pm, [7] 4pm, £11.50-£32.50, 165 mins.

BOOGIE NIGHTS Shane Richie stars in a brand new 1970s musical. Savoy Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888) • Picc Cir. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 3pm, £11.50-£32.50, 165 mins.

CATS Lloyd Webber's musical version of T.S. Eliot's poems. New London Theatre, 30 St Martin's Lane, W1 (0171-404 4079) • Picc Cir. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 3pm, £11.50-£32.50, 165 mins.

CHICAGO Maria Friedman and Peter Davison star in this hit Broadway musical about two murderous women and their nightclub act. Adelphi Theatre, 101 St Martin's Lane, W1 (0171-404 4079) • Picc Cir. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 3pm, £11.50-£32.50, 165 mins.

CINDERELLA Angela Carter's version of this fairytale is staged by the acclaimed Improv Theatre. Lyric Hammersmith Theatre, W6 (0181-741 2311) • Hammersmith. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 3pm, £11.50-£32.50, 165 mins.

FAME THE MUSICAL Eight-act stage version of the TV series charting the highs and lows of a class of young showbiz hopefuls. Prince of Wales Theatre, W1 (0171-839 5972) • Picc Cir. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 3pm, £11.50-£32.50, 165 mins.

FILUMENA Judi Dench and Michael Pennington star in Timberlake Wertenbaker's new translation of Eduardo de Filippo's play. Piccadilly Theatre, W1 (0171-369 1733) • Picc Cir. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 3pm, £11.50-£32.50, 165 mins.

GREASE Energetic stage version of the hit film about life in an American high school. Cambridge Theatre, WC2 (0171-494 5080) • Picc Cir. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 3pm, £11.50-£32.50, 165 mins.

AN IDEAL HUSBAND Christopher Cazenove and Susannah York in Peter Hall's acclaimed production of Wilde's comedy. Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045) • Picc Cir. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4] 3pm, [7] 4pm, £8.50-£29.50, 165 mins.

AN INSPECTOR CALLS Stephen Daldry's well-acclaimed production of J.B. Priestley's thriller. Garrick Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5085) • Picc Cir. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4] 3pm, [7] 4pm, £8.50-£29.50, 165 mins.

WOOD GREEN NEW CURZON (0181-347 6664) • Turpin Lane Fire Arm Club Kuch Hota Hai 2.30pm

WOODFORD ABC (0181-989 3463) • South Woodford Anz 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm The Prince of Egypt 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm

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FIRST CALL, LAST CALL

First Call

EVE ENSLERS The Vagina Monologues was a huge hit on Broadway last year. Glenn Close, Winona Ryder (right), Whoopi Goldberg and Susan Sarandon were bagged for the US gala performance, though it's unconfirmed who will play London's gala show (14 Feb). Drawn from the responses of 200 women to the question "If it could talk, what would it say?", this is, according to The Village Voice, "the most outrageous and important feminist event since the bra burnings". King's Head Theatre, 115 Upper St, London N1 (0171-226 1916) opens 26 Jan, £12

Last Call

AMERICAN SKATE-PUNK band The Offspring have the nod of approval from the Californian skateboarding scene, and it seems their appeal extends to colder climes, too: the London date of their UK tour (Brixton Academy, 15 Jan) is already sold out. Fast becoming MTV favourites, it's their high-octane, spiky punk anthems that keep fans moshing. Barons, Glasgow (0141-339 8383) 10 Jan; Rock City, Nottingham (0115-912 9122) 12 Jan; Manchester Apollo (0161-242 2560) 13 Jan; Town & Country Club, Leeds (0113-280 0100) 14 Jan

First Call



EXHIBITIONS

CHELTENHAM THEATRE Aladdin Princesses, legends and antics in Peking. Mon-Wed 7.15pm, Thurs 7.15pm, Fri 7.15pm, Sat 7.15pm, Sun 7.15pm. Regent Street (01242-572573)

EASTBOURNE DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE Cinderella Eastbourne's Christmas treat starring Eliza and Bracha and Wendy Craig. Mon-Wed 7.30pm, Thurs 7.30pm, Fri 7.30pm, Sat 7.30pm, Sun 7.30pm. Compton Street (01323-412000)

NORTHWICH MADDERMARKET THEATRE The Wind in the Willows Alan Bennett's adaptation of the Kenneth Grahame novel. Mon-Wed 7.30pm, Thurs 7.30pm, Fri 7.30pm, Sat 7.30pm, Sun 7.30pm. St John's Alley (01603-620917)

OXFORD PLAYHOUSE THEATRE Cinderella Family pantomime with songs and songs and songs. Mon-Wed 7.30pm, Thurs 7.30pm, Fri 7.30pm, Sat 7.30pm, Sun 7.30pm. Beaumont Street (01865-798600)

READING THE HEXAGON The Wizard of Oz Michaela Strachan goes over the rainbow to Oz in search of the magical wizard. Mon-Wed 7.30pm, Thurs 7.30pm, Fri 7.30pm, Sat 7.30pm, Sun 7.30pm. Walk (0118-960 6060)

SOUTHAMPTON MAYFLOWER THEATRE Goldilocks And The Three Bears Frank Bruno, Karl Brown and Emily Symons in this star-studded pantomime. Mon-Wed 7.30pm, Thurs 7.30pm, Fri 7.30pm, Sat 7.30pm, Sun 7.30pm. Commercial Road (01703-711811)

NUFFIELD THEATRE Alice in Wonderland Join Alice on a trip to the top of a l



MONDAY TELEVISION

THE MONDAY REVIEW
The Independent 21 December 1998



MATTHEW SWEET

TELEVISION REVIEW

IT'S NICE to see ITV keeping its head in with costume drama. Come to think of it, it's nice to see an ITV drama that doesn't have Robson Green in it. This being commercial television, it went for the whop-bop end of the fashion week, and ended up with a rather nice, if not quite Penguin Classic material, but what the heck. It had gorgeous Cornish locations. It had three sword-fighting heroines with the grand name of Lady Dora St. Columb. And it had Anthony Delon (Alain's son) as a French playmate with all the period charm of a Chippendale, circa 1888, the striping, rather than the upholstered kind.

The story opened as FitzGerald's 17th-century good-time girl was deciding to return to her ancestral home in order to "rescue the world and what I have become." (These days, I have become a TV critic, but I probably wouldn't have done with Lyndie Fienks.) Her husband (James) had been something of an absentee drunk and her children were precariously home. (This being a time of religious turmoil, little Hilda and little Charles were rather taken with tying up the family dog and attempting to exorcise its evil demons.) And they needed to be heavily because the plot demanded that her ladyship abandon her maternal responsibilities for a big-shouldered Gallic suitor named Anthony (Delon). And it didn't take them long to get a spot of violent flunko action on the local quayside - he brought her breakfast in bed, popping into her cabin and feeding her soldiers the eggs, not the military kind.

Before you could say slush me vials, we were plunged into an extraordinary sequence of sordid romantic images. It was as if you were walking around inside the sexual fantasies of a Swindon housewife. La FitzGerald groaned under a big continental shower, then she was on back in a flouncy, off-the-shoulder number, having her neck eaten. Then Delon was shown in the rigging, the suns slowly building behind him. Then, by some mysterious process known only to wicked lady artists and their plucks

BBC1

- 6.00 Business Breakfast** (6535). **7.00 News** (7) (98888).
- 8.00 Sweet Valley High** (9) (784704). **8.25 Children's BBC** The Fame Game (9) (794031).
- 9.55 Teletubbies** (9) (800431). **10.20 News** Regional News: Weather (7) (840584). **10.30 FIVE** An American Tail: Fievel Goes West (7) (810000). Simon Wells (99) US. Cartoon sequel with voiceovers from John Cleese and James Stewart (9) (7) (982699).
- 11.40 The New Adventures of Superman** (9) (7) (77258). **12.25 Wipeout** (9) (7) (802084). **12.50 The Weather Show** (9) (7) (738908). **1.00 News** Weather (9) (7) (98379). **1.30 Regional News and Weather** (450837). **1.40 Neighbours** (9) (7) (870824). **2.05 Between the Dogs** (9) (7) (880379). **2.35 Due South** (9) (7) (82289). **3.20 Enchanted Lands - the Magic of the Fairway** (9) (7) (883044). **3.40 Casper** (9) (7) (228902). **4.00 Bodger and Badger** (9) (7) (109518). **4.45 Aahh and the Chimps** (9) (7) (888822). **4.40 Goodnight, Beethoven** (9) (7) (880435).
- 5.35 Neighbours** (9) (7) (84570).
- 6.00 News** Weather (7) (924).
- 6.30 Regional News** (7) (978).
- 7.00 This is Your Life**. Do you recognise this voice? Yes, you used to bully him at school, he (9) (7) (570).
- 7.30 Here and Now**. Breaking more new ground with reports on modern-day Fagin and Chris Choi looking at the excesses of office parties (9) (7) (890).
- 8.00 EastEnders**. Grant may at last be able to stop looking like Melon Brand on a wet day trip to Scotland as the truth about his paternity is revealed. Or maybe not. Meanwhile, Ricky and Teresa find out the price of not taking their horticulture seriously enough (9) (7) (888).
- 8.00 News** Regional News: Weather (7) (3337).
- 8.30 The Clangers at Christmas**. Ray, Sandy and Mike set out to show others the true meaning of Christmas. Bah, humbug (9) (7) (4802).
- 10.00 FIVE Night Watch** (David S. Jackson 1995 US). Piero Brogan lingers up to take over as OOT in the story. United Nations troubleshooters uncover a black 'world' of course, read your side: there are no alien invaders here (9) (7) (80421).
- 11.35 They Think It's All Over**. Julian Glynn making local jokes. Humm, interesting (9) (7) (81370).
- 12.00 FIVE Uncommon Valor** (Ted Kotcheff 1983 US). Gene Hackman is convinced that his missing son is holed up in a forgotten POW camp in Laos. So he enlists a team of old buddies to do what the UN has failed to do much better (7) (88482).
- 1.40 John's BBC News** 24 (450283). To barn.

BBC2

- 7.00 Children's BBC** Wiggly Park (9) (807888). **7.05 Teletubbies** (9) (802331). **7.30 Yogi's Treasure Hunt** (9) (7) (81458). **7.40 Blue Peter** (9) (7) (87031). **8.20 Eat the Cat** (9) (814922). **8.25 Baz-Mania** (833792). **9.00 Animal Wonders** (9) (7) (234228). **12.30 The Simpsons** (9) (7) (452824). **1.40 Timewatch** (9) (7) (810773).
- 2.30 The Weir**. Interesting-looking new series attempting to give a mythic history of the early American pioneers (9) (7) (234205). **3.55 News** Regional News: Weather (7) (80487).
- 4.00 FIVE The Horse Soldiers** (John Ford 1959 US). This film was popular at the time among the director's fan-base, but it is gradually rehabilitating itself. John Wayne stars as a Civil War Yankee colonel sent behind Confederate lines to disrupt supply operations. Love, however, inhibits the smooth running of the plan. Co-stars a leading William Holden (7) (871827).
- 5.55 Magic Meteorology** (9) (7) (35634).
- 6.00 The Simpsons**. Mayor Quimby's nephew is charged with assault. Bart is the only witness (9) (7) (41399).
- 6.25 Rex the Runt**. Rather charming Pastiche animation. Well, compared with *Bob and Margaret* (9) (7) (73841).
- 6.35 Siders**. The world where tyrannosaurs rex is king (9) (7) (80589).
- 7.15 Rex the Runt**. More animation (9) (7) (82289).
- 7.30 FIVE The Canterbury Tales**. Cartoon Chaucer. See *Animation of the Day*, below (9) (7) (402).
- 8.00 Top Gear - Blood, Salt and Tears**. Tiff Needell follows the history of a century of the land-speed record, first recorded at 40mph in 1897 and, now standing at 763mph and rising (9) (7) (888).
- 8.30 University Challenge**. Jeremy Paxman hosts Margaret College, Oxford and Leicester (9) (7) (7895).
- 9.00 Waiting for God**. Feste Old People Home repeat that don't really justify the licence-fee the first time around (9) (7) (7342).
- 10.30 A Woman Called Smith**. Jenny Smith, vicar of Kelbrook, Lancashire (9) (7) (88502).
- 10.30 Newswatch**. With Gordon Brewer (7) (81484).
- 11.55 Storyville - Moon over Broadway**. Diverging film about comedy actress Carol Burnett's attempt at a Broadway comeback (9) (7) (80822).
- 12.50 FIVE Thorne of Blood** (Akira Kurosawa 1957 Jap). Kurosawa as always produces visual treats, but little emotional insight. Not necessary a drawback, except that this is an adaptation of Macbeth (73144). To 2.00am.

ITV Carlton

- 6.00 GMTV** (102421). **9.25 ITN News** Headlines (7) (4382402).
- 9.35 Children's ITV**. Tiny Toon Adventures (9) (9) (7) (80795). **10.30 Rocky and the Dodos** (9) (9) (831888). **10.45 Ait Attack Christmas** (9) (9) (7) (222773).
- 10.40 FIVE Digby the Biggest Dog in the World** (Joseph McGrath 1973 UK). Lame British precursor to Beethoven in which an Old English sheepdog sale an experimental diet enhancer and grows to gigantic proportions. With Jim Dale and Spike Milligan (7) (1008709).
- 12.20 Your Show** (870305). **12.30 News** Weather (7) (80861). **1.00 London Today** (7) (8704). **1.30 Cross Wins** (7) (82857). **2.00 Wheel of Fortune** (9) (7) (550). **2.30 ITN News** Headlines (7) (88435). **2.35 London Today** (7) (88508). **2.40 Strips** (9) (7) (78458). **4.40 Survival Special** (9) (7) (84234).
- 5.40 News** Weather (7) (84622).
- 6.00 London Tonight** (7) (722).
- 6.30 London Bridge**. The residents of SE1 seem to be under the impression that today is Christmas Day. Well, they don't get out much in Docklands (9) (7) (804).
- 7.00 Emmausdale**. Butch's secret tears the Dingles apart, and Bill gets angry about Kelly and Chris (9) (7) (8289).
- 7.30 Coronation Street**. Alec spots the Duckworths off to Blackpool, much to their surprise. And where are Nick and Leanne going for Christmas? (7) (228).
- 8.00 The Bill**. Daily and Hawton pose as pub barmen to try to infiltrate a prostitution racket (7) (7082).
- 8.40 Catherine Cookson's Colour Blind**. Catherine Cookson's well-meaning Depression-era drama. Ploos on James and Bridget's daughter. Rose Angela (Carmen Eggo) may have grown up beautiful, but her shift colour millies against her in the job market (9) (7) (4618).
- 10.00 Give James on TV**. Give James employs the comic skill of Greg Proops to snigger about the world of TV so-called (9) (8554).
- 10.35 ITN News** Weather (7) (78702).
- 10.40 London Tonight** (7) (78702).
- 11.00 Lockstep**. Relishes of those killed in the Lockerbie disaster talk about the tragedy (7) (9421).
- 12.00 FIVE Mr. Destiny** (James Orr 1990 US). Self-pitying James Balfour is given a lesson in wisdom: it's a No Vay Word! (9) (7) (8338). **3.05 Chalkboard** (9) (887203). **3.45 FIVE The Capture** (John Sturges 1950 US). Western (78838). **5.15 Soundbox** (9) (222433). **5.30 Box Office America** (842259). **5.55 ITN Morning News** (802445). To barn.

Channel 4

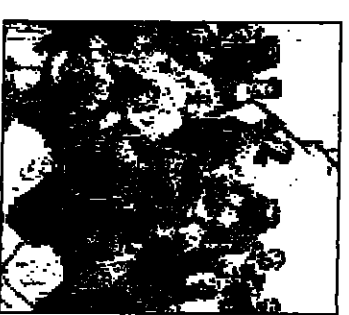
- 6.00 Sesame Street** (1133). **7.00 Ovide** (8315). **7.30 The Magic School Bus** (9) (8150). **8.00 The Big Breakfast** (9) (7) (7717). **10.00 Biggie Breakfast**. Saved by the Bell (9) (7) (7026). **10.30 Biggie Breakfast**. Eerie, Indiana (9) (7) (88508). **10.55 Biggie Breakfast**. The Secret World of Alex Mack (9) (9) (44750). **11.30 Biggie Breakfast**. Moesha (9) (7) (712).
- 12.30 FIVE The Bishop's Wife** (Henry Koster 1947 US). Standard Christmas fare in which bored church mouse (Loretta) receives help from angel Cary Grant. Capricorn without the Capra (7) (8572).
- 2.30 Frances Bussell's Westcountry Christmas** (9) (9) (808). **3.00 Wine Hunt** (9) (859). **3.30 Tool Stories** (7) (50). **4.00 Fit to Be a Hero** (9) (857). **4.30 Countdown** (7) (854880). **4.45 Montel Williams** (9) (7) (78431).
- 5.30 Pet Rescue Awards**. (9) (7) (421).
- 6.00 Roseanne**. Dan comes home for Christmas (9) (7) (834).
- 6.30 Hollyweaks**. Another set of soapsters mistake the date and throw a Christmas lunch (7) (888).
- 7.00 Channel 4 News** Weather (7) (4808).
- 7.30 FIVE Undercover Britain - Drink Drivers**. Who they are, why they do it. See *Documentary of the Day*, below (970).
- 8.00 The Iceberg Cometh**. Documentary chronicling men's relationship with icebergs. Includes footage of attempts to destroy them with bombs, guns and even black paint, brought to the first of platform designed to stay upright when it comes into contact with one. That James Cameron has a lot to answer for (9) (7) (8524).
- 8.30 Brooke's Christmas Special**. It's all go down the coast, and the rope theme warns up. Everyone wishes up to the morning-after party chaos, and Nick can't remember a thing about what's happened to her. Ignorance could well be bliss (9) (7) (770).
- 10.30 FIVE Don Juan Dastard** (Jeremy Laven 1995 US). Stars Johnny Depp. See *Film of the Day*, below (7) (2783402).
- 12.15 FIVE Arizona Dream** (Eric Kaulica 1993 US). Johnny Depp develops an obsession with an older woman. A comedy, apparently (7) (856719).
- 2.50 FIVE Women in the Window** (Fitz Lang 1945 US). Edward G. Robinson in theatrical melodrama (7) (44337).
- 4.40 The Real World** (9) (1099613). **5.05 Shirley and George** (9) (729894). **5.35 2 Sharp Dogs** (9) (9) (80880). **5.55 Sesame Street** (802261). To barn.

Channel 5

- 6.00 5 News and Sport** (9) (819822). **7.00 News** House (9) (885172). **7.30 Milkshake** (9) (235179). **7.55 Haze** (9) (815022). **8.00 George of the Jungle** (9) (751334). **8.30 What-a-Mess** (756059). **9.00 Logopolis** (9) (751597). **9.30 USA Night** (9) (21815). **10.00 The Gods of Olympus** (803732). **10.20 Sunset Beach** (9) (7) (834553). **11.40 The 12.30 Family Affairs** (9) (7) (21833). **1.00 The Bad and the Beautiful** (9) (7) (84485). **1.30 Sons and Daughters** (9) (7) (84402). **2.00 100 Per Cent Good** (465082). **2.30 Good Afternoon** (9) (213957).
- 3.30 FIVE Babyfaces** (Paul Schneider 1989 US). Rick Laine does a good job released from John Wayne's fresh-out-of-hell, through the emphasis in the film still very much on her weight in the annals of the German Shepherd. A lovely, merry worker and her attempts to seduce a train driver. Pretty good (9) (7) (757044).
- 5.20 The Roseanne Show**. "Entertaining and informative" talk show. Informative (9) (805878).
- 6.00 100 Per Cent** (9) (2390421).
- 6.30 Family Affairs**. Pile and Claire celebrate as they realise that Jack has left them everything in his will (9) (7) (238173).
- 7.00 5 News** Including First on Five. With Kristy Young (9) (7) (435570).
- 7.30 Wild at Home**. How the ancient tradition of snuggling led to the discovery of an epidemic of poisoning from ferrets lead weights (9) (7) (238757).
- 8.00 Floyd Uncovered**. Keith Floyd gets a kick from champagne (9) (7) (45238).
- 8.30 Weather Front**. Asks whether we will have a white Christmas (9) (7) (464333).
- 9.00 Lonesome Dove**. More from the star-studded max-series set in the American frontier. One tries to comfort a devastated Lorena. The cattle drive hits a parched area and has to travel almost 100 miles before reaching a waterhole, fighting off horse-thieves along the way (7) (388184).
- 10.50 FIVE Lap Dancer** (1995). "Erotic" drama. A woman takes to juggling when she gets into debt, but finds that the world is a bit easier to stand than the circus. Makes the work of Paul Verhoeven look like serious sociology (8578978).
- 12.15 NFL American Football - Live! Miami Dolphins vs Denver Broncos** (9) (834387). **4.40 Prisoner**. Call Block H (1987/73). **5.30 100 Per Cent** (9) (9) (702042). To barn.

ANIMATION OF THE DAY

THE CANTERBURY TALES (730pm BBC2, 7pm/8pm). Programme-makers love Chaucer, because he gives them a chance to include sex and sexuality before the watershed. These animated films, adapted by Jonathan Myerson, are the product of a collaboration between BBC Wales, S4C and HBO - something unusual in itself - and featuring the voices of Bob Peck, Sean Bean, Ingrid Isak-Hansen, Robert Lindsay and Billie Whitelaw, telling the Monk's Prek, Knight's and Wife of Bath's tales in modern-day English. The Merchant, Pardoner and Friar follow tomorrow. King Lear, an actor, can see the same thing in Middle English at noon tomorrow.



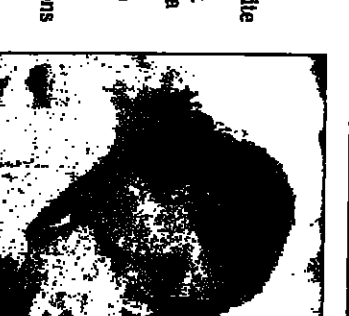
DOCUMENTARY OF THE DAY

UNDERCOVER BRITAIN: DRINK DRIVERS (730pm CA, 7pm/8pm). The regularity of government drink-drive campaigns is in danger of inducing compassion fatigue in the general populace, but this little film, showing Britain's drink-drivers in all their complexity, should put the old person into thinking about their actions. Stella Hanoum, who survived a drink-driving crash which killed her mother, goes undercover to find out just who the culprits are and why they do it. A surprising essay in human egoism with some alarming moments - not least the accountant who has already been hospitalised in a crash but carries on boozing regrettably.



FILM OF THE DAY

DON JUAN DEMARCO (10.30pm CA, 9pm). I've never quite understood America's alternative film-makers' obsession with the limited (but well-cut) charms of Johnny Depp, but he has been given parts in some memorable films. This is a quite delightful little film in which ageing snarky Martin Brandt finds himself treating an attempted suicide (Depp) who claims to be the world's greatest lover. Initially regarding him as just another lion in need of Prozac, he gradually finds himself drawn into Depp's romantic delusions and, through them, reassessing his own marriage to Pave Dunahey. Rather worthy, but a tramping good watch.



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